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BACTERIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONFERENCE MEETS IN GENEVA

Spokesman Denies Violation

LD221812 Moscow World Service in Enlgish 1600 GMT 22 Mar 80 LD

[Text] A Soviet spokesman has censured the hysterical campaign launched by the United States over a fictional Soviet violation of the convention outlawing the production of bacteriological warfare agents. The spokesman, Viktor Isrealyan, was speaking at a conference of the parties to the convention in Geneva. He said the Soviet Union was honoring its international obligations. Viktor Israelyan said natural causes were responsible for the outbreak of disease in the Urals a year ago, an outbreak the United States was trying to present as proof the convention had been violated. In reality this outbreak was caused by the consumption of meat that had not been checked by the medical authorities. When the disease broke out the population were warned about it through the mass media.

Two days ago the Soviet news agency TASS attributed this fabrication to the Central Intelligence Agency. He said the fabrication was being circulated to justify the manufacture of barbarous new means of warfare in the United States.

U.S. Delegate 'Joins Slander Campaign'

LD212116 Moscow TASS in English 2040 GMT 21 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Geneva, March 21 TASS--TASS correspondent Georgiy Dragunov reports:

The conference of the countries, parties to the Convention on Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and Their Destruction ended here today.

The convention, which entered into force in 1975, and the Soviet Union is one of the iniators of its drafting and conclusion, is the first ever measure of real disarmament, which banned and removed from the arsenals of states a whole category of weapons of mass destruction. About 90 countries are signatories to the convention.

The three week-long conference, which was held at the Geneva Palace of Nations, comprehensively discussed effectiveness of the convention, compliance with its provisions by the states, parties to it.

Representatives of Poland, GDR, Mongolia, Ethiopia, Cuba, Italy, India and other countries stressed in their speeches that the convention which bans bacteriological weapons meanwhile promotes the expansion of peaceful utilization of scientific discoveries in bacteriology.

The conference was held amid the aggravation of the international situation and some people tried to prejudice its work. In the past few days Washington launched a campaign of slander to raise doubts as to the Soviet Union's observance of the provisions of the convention. If so far the campaign was conducted mainly through the press, now, at the last session of the conference, the United States representative also joined the campaign.

The USSR's representative rebuffed the provocative fabrications and emphasized that these are part of anti-Soviet hysteria being fanned up in the West.

The conference unanimously passed the concluding declaration which calls upon the states not yet parties to the convention, to join it.

The conference was attended by representatives of more than 50 countries.

Conclusion of Geneva Conference

LD211938 Moscow TASS in English 1845 GMT 21 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Geneva, March 21, TASS--The conference of the countries, parties to the Convention on Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and Their Destruction ended here today. About 90 states are parties to this convention, with the Soviet Union known to be among the initiators of its conclusion.

Questions linked with effectiveness of the convention (which entered into force in 1975), the implementation of its provisions by the parties to the convention were thoroughly discussed at the three week long conference. Representatives of the USSR, Poland, Cuba, Ethiopia, Italy, India and a number of other states pointed to the great significance of the convention and its successful implementation. The conference unanimously passed the concluding declaration which reaffirms that the provisions of the convention are being implemented with success. The declaration calls upon the states not yet signatories to the convention, such as China, for instance, to join it.

UK PRESS CITED ON BRITISH CHEMICAL WARFARE ACTIVITIES

LD222014 Moscow TASS in English 2000 GMT 22 Mar 80 LD

[Text] London, March 22, TASS--Extensive preparations for chemical warfare are being conducted in Britain, writes the weekly NOW which appears in London. The weekly reports that late last year a range was set up on a vast territory near the town of Porton Down where a centre supervised by the Ministry of Defence is situated. The weekly stresses that according to official statements, the range is used for testing the means of defence in conditions of a chemical attack. But it is quite obvious, the weekly writes, that it is the methods of attacking that are mainly being developed there.

A documentary film about a staff college of ground forces in Camberley that was recently shown by the British television also attests to the preparations for chemical warfare. The authors of this film noted that students of the college study the possibilities and consequences of strikes of chemical weapons and drill the methods of using various toxic substances.

REJOINDER SCORES U.S. GENERAL'S CALL FOR TOXIC WEAPONS

LD180823 Moscow TASS in English 0755 GMT 18 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 18, TASS--Under the heading "Behind the Scenes of the Clamour" PRAVDA today carries a rejoinder, which reads:

"The U.S. General Rogers, supreme commander in chief of NATO forces in Europe, made a statement which once again revealed the criminal Pentagon schemes. In a BBC interview, the general has just declared that the United States should launch the manufacture of chemical weapons. In doing so the general called for so-called double-purpose weapons including components of toxic and nervous effect.

It will be recalled that the United States already used chemical weapons during the war in Vietnam. It is also common knowledge that work on the development of new types of such weapons has been continuing in the United States throughout recent years.

As late as last month, the New York TIMES said that toxic substances had been stockpiled in the United States in large quantities. The newspaper reported even such a detail: 955 incidents of the leak of poison gases from stores have been registered since 1967. Thus, Rogers has not the slightest reason for pretending that the United States should only 'launch' the manufacture of chemical weapons.

In the light of the American general's statement it becomes clear for what purpose the slanderous clamour has been raised across the ocean, alleging that the USSR is using toxic substances in Afghanistan. Such concoctions were needed to justify the course of the American military for expanding the production of the most barbarous means of warfare."

CARTER MISSTATEMENT OF POLICY ON SALT II OBSERVANCE QUESTIONED

LD211337 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 18 Mar 80 p 5 LD

[Correspondent A. Tolkunov dispatch: "A Slip?"]

[Text] New York, 17 March--Speaking at a press conference, U.S. President J. Carter has declared that if it is ascertained in the future during his consultations with the Congress that the SALT II treaty is not in the U.S. national interests, "in that case I will inform the Soviet Union that the terms of the treaty are no longer binding." "Certain government officials," the New York TIMES reports, "express surprise at these words of Carter's, surmising that the President has misstated administration policy. They added that the materials prepared for the press conference recommended the President to express firm support for the treaty."

President Carter has not yet explained his specific intent in making this statement.

Has he made the SALT II treaty a tool in the election game of winning the favor of representatives of the powerful U.S. military-industrial complex? For it is precisely they who are interested in wrecking the SALT II accords.

The WALL STREET JOURNAL, the business circles' newspaper, reports that the Pentagon is already studying plans for the development and manufacture of strategic arms outside the SALT II framework. It is primarily a question of creating a new version of the MX nuclear missile complex and producing a new generation of strategic bombers, as well as a multibillion-dollar ABM system.

Were the President's statements another slip, or do they conceal another overture to militarist circles? There is not yet an answer to this question.

ZORIN VIEWS SALT II AND SOVIET-U.S. RELATIONS

LD220941 Moscow in English to North America 2300 GMT 21 Mar 80 LD

[Text] The 10th and last discussion in our "Listeners' History Club" series has been contributed by the club president, historian Valentin Zorin.

Professor Zorin is a major writer for the Institute of United States and Canada studies under the Soviet Academy of Sciences and political observer for Soviet television and radio. His topic today is SALT II and its significance for Soviet-American relations and world peace. [begin Zorin recording]:

History can be said to be the quintessence of humanity's experience. It is important not only as a description of the past but as a body of knowledge that makes it possible to avoid the mistakes of the past and build a better future. Let's examine SALT I and SALT II from this angle. SALT I, you know, was signed in 1972. SALT II was signed last year but has yet to be ratified. The two strategic arms limitation treaties belong as much to the present and future as to the past, because the future of humanity depends to a great extent on the state of relations between the two most powerful nations, the United States and the Soviet Union. I believe no one will argue this. The very fact the treaties came into being at all is significance. It will be no exaggeration to say that they represent a turning point in world politics. Much of what has happened in these postwar decades has stemmed from big power competition in developing the most destructive weapons. I will not go into the question of who began the dangerous race, I will just say that we in the Soviet Union believe that throughout this postwar period we have been no more than responding to the atom bomb challenge. Then we sought to protect our national security in the face of growing United States power.

An impartial analysis of historical facts does indeed show that the Soviet Union was always responding to action taken by the United States. President Brezhnev has noted on several occasions that the Soviet Union has never sought military superiority. Such a striving can only be ascribed to groups in the United States who refuse to accept the idea that they will never achieve military superiority and therefore should not bother to seek it. Towards the end of the sixties, however, it must have occurred to the administration in Washington that American security would be better served by stopping the senseless and expensive arms race. It looked as if American leaders recognised that every nation has a right to protect its security. At any rate, in November 1974 Soviet and American leaders met in Vladivostok and formulated the crucial principle of like security. This sensible principle cleared the way for ultimately stopping the dangerous arms buildup and reducing stockpiles. In time it became the cornerstone of such a significant document as SALT II. Unfortunately, the road from recognition of this principle to action on it has proved longer than expected and longer than the nations of the world wish.

When the Carter administration entered the White House in January 1977 it acted to revise the understanding reached at Vladivostok. As a result, a treaty that could have been signed 4 years ago was signed only last year and has yet to come into force. One of the reasons for this unfavorable turn of events is the aspirations of groups in the United States that have made a business of arms production. Another reason stems from the assumption of some in America that the Soviet Union is more interested in strategic arms limitation than the United States and hence would be willing to pay a political price to have SALT II ratified. There is nothing farther from the truth. Humanity faces self-destruction today. No one will be a winner in a thermonuclear war. All will be losers.

If nuclear weapons are used on a mass scale the earth will no longer be a place where people can live. This notwithstanding, the Soviet Union has been under constant pressure to pay a price for SALT II.

Top officials of the United States understand the signing of SALT II was no American gift to the Soviet Union. President Carter reminded members of the Democratic Party last September that if the Senate turned down SALT II it would be a terrible blow for American security, for its influence on world affairs, for its future and for world peace. President Carter warned against betraying Americans who want peace and are playing politics with nuclear arsenals. [sentence as heard] Later, in his State of the Union Message last January, Mr Carter reemphasized that SALT II was neither a concession of the United States to the Soviet Union nor a concession of the Soviet Union to the United States.

But if this is so why did President Carter decide to freeze ratification of the treaty as a way of punishing the Soviet Union, as it was said? Judging by the statements of top officials in Washington, it is assumed that the Soviet Union will abide by SALT II even if the treaty is not ratified. This would be a justified assumption if the United States showed signs of abiding by the treaty. But instead the administration is doing all it can to upset the strategic balance. It has given the go-ahead for the production of the MX missile and other new weapons, and with the NATO decision of last December it is moving missiles with nuclear charges right up to the Soviet frontier. The missiles will be able to reach vital centers of the Soviet Union in a matter of minutes.

In these conditions it is unrealistic to think that the Soviet Union is going to swallow everything American officials say and do nothing to prevent the United States from getting the upper hand militarily. Experience has taught us to observe none but those international treaties which have come into force and which the other side feels bound by. The Soviet Union believes it is important to preserve and consolidate what has already been done toward limiting strategic arms and to carry the work forward in future talks for SALT III, IV and so on. It is important ultimately to scrap the tremendous stockpiles of nuclear weapons. There is no reasonable alternative to the easing of world tension. Surely no one in his right mind would consider a global nuclear war a suitable alternative.

The future of humanity depends on limiting strategic arms, stepping their accumulation and step by step moving toward disarmament. This has been the Soviet position all along and it remains our position. But it is essential that the leaders of the United States draw the proper conclusions from the lessons of recent history. The Soviet Union is still ready to sign agreements that would save humanity from the horrors of a nuclear war, but it insists on a return to the principle of like security. What should guide national leaders is not a wish to upset the strategic parity and get the upper hand, but a wish to consider the interests of the other side as well as the interests of their own country. Then present and future generations on this earth will be able to live in peace.

SHISHLIN ON REGULAR MEETINGS OF SOCIALIST FOREIGN MINISTERS

LD212332 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1900 GMT 21 Mar 80 LD

[Nikolay Shishlin commentary]

[Text] Chnoupek, minister of foreign affairs of Czechoslovakia, is paying a visit to the Soviet Union. Hungarian Foreign Minister Puja also visited Moscow this week. They held talks with Gromyko, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and minister of foreign affairs. Here is a news bulletin commentary by international affairs journalist Nikolay Shishlin:

The meetings were traditional ones, yet in this instance tradition does not mean simply repetition since the meetings occur at a very specific time and express the clearcut striving of the socialist countries to closely coordinate their foreign policies and jointly strive for certain objectives in international affairs. The socialist countries perceive the reasons for the present exacerbation of international tension and assess these reasons in clearcut terms. They undoubtedly lie in the policy adopted by the American administration, adopted moreover not yesterday or even the day before, but 2 or 3 years ago. They lie in the actions of reactionary NATO circles which certainly saw the course pursued by the current Chinese leadership toward conniving and cooperating with imperialism as an encouraging element for themselves to put a certain pressure on the socialist world.

So in these very complicated circumstances, in conditions of increasing complexity in the international situation, the meetings between foreign ministers of socialist states are also noteworthy from the point of view that the socialist countries are clearly showing that they continue to hold the door open for a constructive political dialog with countries belonging to different social systems. This is expressed in the very concrete and practical approach, in particular to the meeting scheduled for Madrid in the autumn of 1980 between representatives of the participant states in the all-Europe conference in Helsinki, and in the active and energetic support on measures of trust and military detente. Also the support which given to the proposal by Polish comrades to host this conference in Warsaw.

The fact that the socialist countries energetically support the peoples' rights to free and independent development, express sympathy with the lofty goals of the April revolution in Afghanistan, and express conviction that the independence of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan must be reliable guarded, also undoubtedly deserves mention. In short, what is occurring is practical work, routine to a certain extent while at the same time being very important, toward agreeing and coordinating the foreign policy activities of the fraternal socialist states. And this means that this factor, which is of prime importance in world politics, will continue to operate actively in the interests of peace and in the interests of improving the international atmosphere.

WEEKLY 'INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS' ROUNDTABLE'

LD231802 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0800 GMT 23 Mar 80 LD

["International Observers' Roundtable" program presented by Boris Andrianov, all-union radio commentator; with Eduard Vasilyevich Kovalev, international affairs journalist; and Vadim Nikolayevich Nekrasov, international observer of KOMMUNIST]

[Text] [Andrianov] The 12th Congress of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party [MSZMP] opens in Budapest tomorrow. This is an event of great significance not only in the lives of Hungarian communists and in the life of the people of fraternal Hungary but also in the life of our entire socialist community. In preparing for their 12th congress, Hungarian communists have again emphasized their steadfast loyalty to the internationalist unity and cohesion of the socialist community, which serves as a most important factor for peace and for the strengthening of international security. This week, as you know, Frigyes Puja, member of the MSZMP Central Committee and minister of foreign affairs of the Hungarian People's Republic, was in our country on a visit. He had talks with Andrey Andreyevich Gromyko, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR minister of foreign affairs. During these friendly meetings problems of the current international situation, particularly those connected with the task of stepping up the joint struggle for a strengthening of peace, detente, a halt to the arms race, disarmament and cooperation between peoples, were considered. Comrades Gromyko and Puja particularly emphasized the readiness of our countries to hold talks in the future on questions concerning military detente, disarmament and the transformation of Europe into a continent of lasting peace, if the governments of the NATO member states renounce their attempts to change the balance of forces and to gain military superiority to the detriment of the security of the socialist community.

U.S.-NATO Relations

[Kovalev] However, this week's events show that the imperialist forces of the West do not want to proceed along this path. Thus, the U.S. blackmailing of West Europe is becoming more and more impudent. Washington is increasing the pressure on its allies in an attempt to gain, under the watchword of Atlantic solidarity, their complete and unconditional support for the policy of the present U.S. administration which is directed at torpedoing detente and pressing ahead with the arms race. One must say that it this respect Washington is treating the governments of sovereign European countries as vassals. However, while certain allies, primarily London and Bonn, are to a certain extent bowing to American diktat, the governments of some other states as well as the business circles of West Europe are limiting their display of solidarity to words and are unwilling to undertake specific steps which would undermine their links with the socialist states and the Soviet Union and would threaten detente.

[Nekrasov] Eduard Vasilyevich, in this connection I would like to draw your attention to Western press reports concerning very aggressive utterances by Brzezinski, the U.S. President's national security adviser. These are the latest utterances on the theme that West Europe and Japan should undertake weightier actions and make a more substantial contribution to the anti-Soviet line now being pursued by Washington. These utterances were very plain speaking indeed, and Mr Brzezinski said outright that the policy being pursued by the U.S. NATO allies is one of the unity in words and passivity in deed and is completely unacceptable to the United States.

[Kovalev] I agree with you, Vadim Nikolayevich. Brzezinski's statements are, of course, most indicative. The Carter government is now starting to pursue a new, tougher line with regard to its NATO allies at a time when many West European leaders, it seems, have more than ever begun to be convinced of the inability of the White House to cope with foreign policy problems.

One must say that at present the newly proclaimed advocates of antidetente, both in the United States and in certain circles of West Europe, are imposing through the mass information media controlled by them an extremely pessimistic assessment of the possibilities for the development of mutually beneficial cooperation between the socialist and capitalist states. These people from the past would apparently like to tear the fabric of detente and take the entire world, including Europe, back to the times of the cold war. These include Thatcher, Britain's prime minister, the leaders of the present Portuguese Government from the center-right democratic alliance, and lastly Strauss, the German Christian Democrats' candidate for the West German chancellorship. The latter, for example, is demanding a halt to all trading with the Soviet Union in strategic goods. The simplest variant, so to speak, of alinement with their senior partner is being imposed upon the West Europeans. But many people in West Europe, primarily in France, are aware that in this situation their independent policy would to all intents and purposes cease to exist. As was aptly stated by one prominent state official in capitalist Europe, a country pursuing such a path would be transformed in its foreign and economic policies into a province of the imperialist superpower located across the Atlantic Ocean.

[Andrianov] Let us return to the policy of rightwing circles in Europe. In practice they have been adhering to the doctrine of containing communism. This week new reports appeared confirming the fact that aid is being given by FRG rightwingers to other rightwing forces, in particular in southern Europe. But all these intrigues and machinations have been implemented, or course, in secret and with the calculation that they would not become known to the broad public.

[Kovalev] But, Boris Vasilyevich, they were forgetting one old truth, that all secrets become known sooner or later. This was again confirmed in connection with the unseemly activity which for a number of years has been, and continues to be, conducted by the opponents of detente among the most reactionary circles in the leadership of the West German Christian Democratic Union Christian Social Union [CDU/CSU] opposition bloc. One of the key figures in this rightwing bloc is Werner Marx, a member of the board of CDU/CSU group in the Budestag. Revelations concerning the machinations of these officials were made a few days ago on GDR television by Inge Goliath, a former personal secretary of Werner Marx, who a year ago together with her husband requested political asylum in the GDR. She said that she directly witnessed for 10 years the subversive work which her chief and his colleagues conducted against the ruling coalition of Social Democrats and Free Democrats. They attempted to destroy the government's policy of normalizing relations with the Soviet Union and other socialist countries. One should add that another CSU official, Bavarian Premier Franz Josef Strauss, who has not been put forward as a candidate for the FRG chancellorship, also took part in this activity. The weekly DER SPIEGEL wrote some time ago that because of his blind fear of communism, the CDU/CSU candidate for the FRG chancellorship maintains contacts with rightwingers and fascists throughout the world and helps them not only with lightweight advice but also with hard currency.

DER SPIEGEL went on to write that Strauss has spent hundreds of thousands of marks in supporting Spanish and Portuguese reactionaries. Also he does not ignore reactionaries in other parts of the world. Thus, in Italy his political sympathies and financial handouts are addressed to the neofascist national democracy group. Should one be surprised by the fact that it is precisely these figures together with Strauss who are now unconditionally supporting the Carter administration's course of exacerbating the international situation or that they welcomed loudest of all the decision foisted by Washington on its NATO partners of deploying new U.S. nuclear missiles in West Europe?

U.S. Mideast Military Buildup

[Andrianov] The attention of international observers has certainly been attracted this week by the further buildup of U.S. naval power in the Arabian Sea. A new strike force detachment of six ships is approaching or perhaps has already reached the shores of Iran. They have on board 1,800 marines, who recently underwent special training in the Philippines which approximated combat conditions as closely as possible. According to Bradley, a newscaster for the CBS television network, the number of U.S. warships in the Persian Gulf region already comprises 31 combat units. Such a concentration of U.S. naval forces in a single area, which is unparalleled during the entire postwar period, is intensifying the already tense situation there, and is arousing legitimate alarm not only in the countries of that area.

But I would like to note the following in this connection: The U.S. press as carried articles which are primarily designed to convince public opinion in the United States, of course, that allegedly the powerful naval fist being displayed by Washington is only menacing in appearance. It is actually being claimed that it does not constitute anything serious.

Here is what the Washington POST writes, for example: Quoting its own sources, it asserts that there is a shortage of literally everything, from spares to missiles, on the U.S. ships brought to the Persian Gulf. If one is to believe the Washington POST account, it appears that if it were necessary, the F-14 aircraft aboard U.S. aircraft carriers would be forced to go into action very nearly unarmed, since they lack a full set of missiles. Apparently, military aircraft are being ruthlessly dismantled on all U.S. naval bases in order to create the required number of spare parts. In a word, the impression is being created that cotton is being collected almost threat by thread in order to provide the beggar with a shirt, that is to say, with full battle dress. The picture painted by the U.S. newspapers is so pitiful that it is just amazing that the Pentagon took the risk of sending such a helpless naval armada to foreign shores.

[Kovalev] I might add that the Washington POST itself revealed the motive which compelled it to describe in such terms all the alleged trials and tribulations of the extremely powerful naval formation which has been brought into the Persian Gulf region. The U.S. newspaper, figuratively speaking, switched from science fiction to documentary, declaring that there has been a shortage of combat ships in the U.S. Navy for a long time, ever since almost half the fleet was taken out of service. The navy now numbers a mere 531 ships. In quoting this figure, the Washington POST, though it does not say that this fleet is not large enough, nevertheless hints very matter-of-factly during a further discussion of the matter that more is needed since, as it puts it, the significance of the navy continues to grow.

[Nekrasov] Comrades, what can one say? This is a common argument when discussing the myth of the Soviet military threat, with the aid of which attempts are made to push ahead even further with the intensification of the arms race by asserting that certain areas of U.S. military strength have started to lag behind, that gap has opened up, and that it is necessary to boost efforts either in the area of tanks, or in the area of missile weapons. Just now we are seeing a campaign of this kind in connection with the navy. This is a normal situation, so to speak, but in this connection I would like to draw attention to another aspect of the question. Last week, the U.S. magazine NATION, trying to go a bit deeper into the processes now taking place in U.S. foreign policy, drew attention to some very interesting facts. These facts indicate that it was not Afghanistan, nor any events of an external nature, in the words of the U.S. magazine, which compelled the White House to alter its course. The point is that a particular technological moment had arrived, according to the magazine. What is it referring to? It refers to the fact that in laboratories and experimental stations new weapons models covering a wide spectrum, including the naval sphere, have been prepared. They now want to bring these models into service, they want to change the existing hardware. This explains all the shouting that the United States is lagging behind, which you mentioned.

U.S. Economic Situation

Something approaching a national disaster was announced in Washington last week--the inflation situation. Frankly, the situation is serious. Last year the level of inflation, that is, the depreciation of money in the United States and the rise in the cost of living, was 13.3 percent. The level for the first 2 months of this year, projected annually, is 20 percent and still rising. No one knows where it will stop. The president delivered a message to say that a threat to the country's economic security had arisen and he proposed budget economies of roughly $13-14 billion per year. But at the same time it was stressed that military appropriations, provisionally set at about $162 billion, remain a sacred cow; they have not been touched. Appropriations to reduce unemployment among young people, allocations to improve the state of large cities and for medical assistance will all be affected, but military spending will not be tampered with. This is the current political climate reigning in the United States. While the U.S. President permits himself in his address to say that the proposed measures will hurt the American people, and they really will hurt, they certainly will not hurt those who are shouting that U.S. military strength has allegedly weakened.

Edward Kennedy, who is seeking the Democratic Party presidential nomination, put it well: In connection with this campaign currently being conducted at an official level by the White House, he declared that when the applause dies down and the orchestras finish playing their fanfares for a vigilant President who champions U.S. national interests, it will become clear on whose shoulders the primary burden of the situation is being laid, it will become clear who will shoulder the main load.

PRC Officials Abroad

[Andrianov] The events of the week also make it possible to speak of an intensification of Beijing's intrigues on the international arena. There is literally a wave of military and diplomatic forays on various countries by Beijing. Chinese Foreign Minister Huang Hua was in the Philippines, Malaysia and Singapore. His deputy, Han Nianlong, went to Japan. Another PRC vice minister of foreign affairs, Zhang Wenjin, had talks in the United States.

Ziao Ke, vice minister of national defense, led a Chinese military delegation which visited Pakistan. The Beijing emissaries visited various countries, various regions, but everywhere the Chinese diplomats and military officials were engaged in one thing: From a standpoint of shameless anti-Sovietism, they strove to further exacerbate the atmosphere of international tension. However, judging by foreign news agency reports, these attempts by PRC Foreign Minister Huang Hua met with a cool reception in the countries of Southeast Asia. In Malaysia, for example, he was not permitted to pepper his statements with attacks on the Soviet Union and Vietnam, as he did during his stay in the Philippines. The attitude in the capitals of the three countries which Huang Hua visited toward Beijing's proposals to develop ties and deepen contacts with China was highly restrained, not to say guarded. It is evident that an increasingly clear appreciation is forming in these countries of what close relations with the Beijing hegemonists, who have not abandoned plans for China's expansion in Southeast Asia, could spell for them.

By the way, in Singapore it was confirmed for Huang Hua that there is no intention of establishing diplomatic relations with the PRC until relations between China and Indonesia are normalized. Indonesia, by all accounts, has no such intention. Undoubtedly, the memory is still fresh there of the events of September 1965 when Beijing crudely interfered in the internal affairs of that country with the goal of effecting a coup. Thus, to sum up the results of Huang Hua's visit, one can say that it manifestly failed to live up to the hopes which Beijing had held out for it.

## Deng Resignation Intent

[Kovalev] Boris Vasilyevich, now that you have brought up the subject of China, it seems to me quite apt to discuss, if only in passing, a report which arrived from Beijing this week. What I have in mind is the report that Deng Xiaoping plans to give up the post of first vice premier this summer.

[Andrianov] You are quite right to note that Deng Xiaoping plans to take this step. Butterfield, a New York TIMES correspondent, assessed this intention as a highly unexpected move. This analysis by the American journalist could hardly be said to be correct, assuming, of course, that his aim was not to make something sensational out of the report. He writes that Deng Xiaoping is yielding ground. Indeed, similar interpretations appeared in certain Western press organs over Deng's recent departure from the post of PRC Army chief of staff. Taking everything into account, a definite calculation lurks behind this. I would like to recall in this connection that in China not so long ago there was a considerable shakeup among provincial party and administrative cadres and also in military districts.

This shakeup was carried out under the guise of dropping the practice of combining party and administrative posts. The idea is that one man should hold only one post or office. This shakeup of personnel actually led to the removal of those referred to as having come to prominence through the Cultural Revolution, that is, those officials who took over provincial-level management posts as a result of the political campaign launched by Mao Zedong in 1966. Thus, if one can believe the reports from Beijing, Deng Xiaoping intends to relinquish his office of first vice premier while retaining his post as vice chairman of the CCP Central Committee, that is, as Hua Guofeng's deputy.

However, it is generally known that Hua Guofeng performs the office not only of chairman of the CCP Central Committee, but is also head of the Chinese Government and chairman of the Military Council of the CCP Central Committee. How can one know whether Deng Xiaoping's intention to relinquish the job of vice premier is not prompted by a calculated plan to force Hua Guofeng to relinquish a number of his powers?

[Nekrasov] Let us take a look at another part of the world. Let us swim across the Pacific to the countries of Latin America. There are interesting processes at work here. The volcanic continent is not called volcanic for nothing. These processes are concentrated at the moment in the Central American region.

## Latin American Events

Last week there were talks in Moscow with a Nicaraguan party and government delegation. An exchange of views took place on political assessments of the world situation. The Nicaraguan visitors briefed our leaders on the situation in the country and the measures they are taking to build a new Nicaragua. They expressed gratitude for the solidarity which the Soviet people have shown and still show to the people of that small Latin American country. It is quite evident that in the months which have passed since the victory of the Nicaraguan revolution the country has achieved significant successes, although very great difficulties remain, which are connected with food shortages in the country and with the ravages caused by the Somoza bandits during their resistance to the popular insurrection. The difficulties are serious but at the same time the people's spirits are high. The Nicaraguan people are firmly standing guard over their revolution and the Nicaraguan example is already an example for many neighboring countries.

Critical events are developing in neighboring El Salvador. El Salvador is an even smaller country than Nicaragua but it is more densely populated. There is a struggle unfolding there which to a certain extent recalls last year's struggles, which we read about, of the Nicaraguan revolution. It is true, of course, that the experience of the Nicaraguan revolution has not been missed by U.S. imperialism. A large number of instructors and arms are now being sent to assist the military authorities of El Salvador and the slogans which U.S. politicians have adopted state that there must be no second Nicaragua in Central America. One is enough for us, they say. All the same, the struggle is developing and taking a very undesirable turn at times for the rulers of that country and for their American advisers. I would probably not be wrong in saying that in the coming weeks and months we shall hear many more reports from the diminutive Latin American country of El Salvador concerning the struggle which the people of that country are now aging and which they have sworn to fight to the victorious finish.

## Geneva Conference Results

[Andrianov] When talking about this week's events one should perhaps not ignore the patent failure of the U.S. administration's Geneva Conference venture. Washington had intended to stage a regular anti-Soviet rally there. Western propaganda provided a publicity ballyhoo, presenting the gathering as the Geneva Conference. It was to have been attended by delegates from at least 25 countries which allegedly support a boycott of the Moscow Olympics. It was also to have agreed on arrangements for a counter-Olympics.

Washington entrusted the stage managing of the event to its special emissary Cutler, a U.S. presidential adviser. The White House selected him specially for the battle against the Olympics movement, authorizing him to work for the organization of some alternative games to offset the Olympics in Moscow.

[Kovalev] It is completely obvious that this was a purely anti-Soviet political foray carried out under the guise of a sports debate, a sort of discussion of sport questions, while it was actually an attack by enemies of the Olympics movement who are trying to mix sport not only with politics but with the politics of undermining detente and cooperation in international affairs.

[Andrianov] Yes, this move was precisely of this nature but, as L'HUMANITE noted, no more than 7 countries from the 25 most obedient U.S. allies responded to Washington's invitation to send their delegates to Geneva. It was on this deficient scale, including the Washington emissary, that this conference, if you will pardon the expression, took place behind closed doors in the diplomatic missions of the United States and Britain in Geneva. Here is the result, as summed up by the French newspaper, LE MATIN: The Geneva Conference was a fiasco or, to put it in Russian, a miserable flop. Here is the view of a West German ARD television program: The Geneva meeting showed that politicians are meddling in the domain of sportsmen. It added, not without sarcasm: Will this not all end with the White House as the organizer of sports events?

[Nekrasov] I would like to remark on one essential detail in this connection. Britain was represented at the Geneva gathering by Hurd, the minister of state for foreign and Commonwealth affairs, with responsibility for sports affairs. To put it more accurately, he did not represent Britain's athletes but only official London. The Conservative Government is trying to torpedo any opportunity for British athletes to participate in the Moscow Olympics. However, numerous public opinion polls held in Britain testify that a considerable proportion of the population disagrees with London's thick-headed position on this issue. For example, the ITV television network has reported that more than two-thirds of British people polled favor the participation of Great Britain's Olympic team in the Moscow Olympics. Follows, the president of the British Olympics Association, has emphasized that no steps taken by the Conservative Government will convince, let alone force, British athletes to refuse to take part in the Moscow Olympics. There is to be a meeting of Britain's National Olympic Committee next Tuesday, 25 March and as (Cuttrell), the London correspondent for the NBC television network has stated, this meeting is almost certain to give the British Government a slap in the face because the committee will vote to participate in the Moscow Olympics.

[Kovalev] Do you remember the report that British civil servants will not be granted special leave to go to Moscow?

[Nekrasov] Yes.

[Kovalev] A leading official of the trade union representing state and municipal civil servants has said that we might go on strike while the Olympic games are on. So the government will not be able to persecute people if they go to the Olympics.

[Nekrasov] That is an intriguing scenerio.

[Andrianov] In our program we have naturally not been able to cover all the events which happened abroad during the past week. But those which we have touched on confirm once again the complexity of the period which has begun on the world scene. This has been the direct result of the policy adopted by the imperialist circles of the United States and other NATO countries toward accelerating the arms race, provoking conflict situations and intervening in the domestic affairs of other countries. Therefore, at present, when the international situation has become markedly more complex, for which the imperialist forces of the West are to blame--and when trends which menace the achievements of detente have arisen, the peoples particularly associate their hopes for a peaceful future with the unshakable Leninist foreign policy of our party and state and of the whole socialist community. This is confirmed by a statement by U.S. scientists which was published yesterday. In response to this statement, which was signed by 654 eminent figures in American science and medicine, Leonid Ilich Brezhnev stressed, in a message to the authors of the document: "You may be confident that your humane and noble activity directed toward preventing nuclear war will encounter understanding and support in the Soviet Union."

POPOV REJECTS AFGHANISTAN-OLYMPICS LINKAGE

LD241057 Paris LE MATIN in French 18 Mar 80 p 20 LD

[Jacques Marchand interview with Vladimir Popov, vice president of the Moscow Olympics Organizing Committee, in Paris: "Moscow Sends Olympic Ambassador to Paris"--date of interview not specified]

[Text] Vladimir Popov (55 years old) has broad enough shoulders to carry the organization of the Moscow games. He has both the athletic and political build to fill his post with authority. A foreign observer in Moscow who is also a member of the International Olympic Committee [IOC] claimed he carries the games computer in his head. He has long since proved to journalists that he knows his facts thoroughly and can answer any technical questions on the organization. However, our interview was primarily political in tone.

The question we put to his interpretor Yuriy Yukov, head of the international service, was the following: "In the communique issued at Lake Placid, which was highly critical of the United States, the IOC nonetheless called on Soviet officials in the Olympic movement to approach their government in an attempt to obtain conditions more favorable to the games. Lord Killanin, the president, and the other members of the IOC Executive Committee have always hoped for a conciliatory gesture from the USSR on Afghanistan. Have the Soviet members of the IOC and the Organizing Committee approached the USSR Government? Can any results be expected?"

The reply was watered down with remarks on the phrasing of our question. "In the document published by the IOC with which we are fully acquainted," Vladimir Popov remarked, "Lord Killanin did not request but expressed a desire that we should approach our government. That deals with the problem of terminology but leaves the substance of your question unanswered. We are attentive to all requests made by the IOC and international federations and try to satisfy them. We are aware of Lord Killanin's feelings but--and our stance is known throughout the world--we do not want to link events in Afghanistan with problems of organizing or running the games in Moscow.

"We reject any use of the games in a speculative approach concerning Afghanistan. Moreover Afghanistan is not mentioned in Lord Killanin's text (note), (That is true. In none of its communiques does the IOC mention events in Afghanistan but it does hint at the need to moderate the conflict to favor the games). The IOC calls on the Soviet Government to improve the situation in the world which is a statement in keeping with the Olympic spirit which we should take into consideration."

Nonetheless, even if they do not want to mix sport and politics on principle, the Soviet officials cannot fail to be aware that current political events are influencing the games and that to fail to be concerned about this would amount to condemning the games since countries like the FRG and even France if they are to maintain their present balanced attitude, which still leaves Moscow a chance, need some evidence of goodwill from the Soviet Government and a diplomatic initiative to justify their support for the Moscow games. Whatever he says officially this subtlety has not escaped Vladimir Popov, who admitted finally: "We understand that the international situation has some influence on the Olympic games and that this was true of the last games, but political problems can only be settled at the political level."

Who can solve the USSR's political problems connected with the survival of the games? Vitaliy Smirnov, Soviet IOC vice president, had already answered that question during his visit to Paris: "I am not the commander in chief of the Soviet troops called into Afghanistan."

STATEMENT OF OLYMPIC COMMITTEES MEETING REPORTED

LD222108 Moscow TASS in English 2102 GMT 22 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Brussels, March 22, TASS--Representatives of the national Olympic committees of 15 countries of Western Europe and the USA confirmed the determination to do everything so that sportsmen of their countries could freely participate in the 22nd Summer Olympics in accordance with the Olympic Charter and rules. This is said in a statement of participants in the second consultative meeting of the national Olympic committees of countries of Western Europe that was held in Brussels. The statement points to need of ensuring the presence of sportsmen of these countries at the Moscow Olympics for which they were preparing for long, and preserving independence and continuity of the Olympic movement. It is stressed in the statement that in accordance with the Charter of the International Olympic Movement, every national Olympic committee has the exclusive right to decide freely the question of the participation of its sportsmen in the Olympics. Representatives of the national Olympic committees declared categorically against the holding of any sports competitions that would be replacing the Olympics.

WALDHEIM CRITICIZES U.S. CALLS FOR IRAN BLOCKADE

LD211134 Moscow TASS in English 1100 GMT 21 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Washington, March 21, TASS--At a press conference here, U.N. Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim stated that he disagrees with those U.S. political figures who suggest that a naval blockade of Iran be established, that mines be planted in its coastal waters, and that Iranian diplomats who are in the United States be interned. Kurt Waldheim pointed out that such measures would only aggravate the state of things and would by no means contribute to the efforts of the UNO and other sides concerned for the release of the U.S. hostages. He said it is possible to solve the conflict only through talks and that a threat to use military force would put in jeopardy the lives of the Americans held hostage and would lead to an outburst in the entire region.

PETROV ASSAILS 'HEGEMONISTIC LOGIC' OF MIDDLE EAST POLICY

LD232100 Moscow TASS in English 2045 GMT 23 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 23, TASS--The newspaper PRAVDA in its issue dated March 24 carries Aleksey Petrov's article headlined "The Peoples of the Middle East are Threatened by U.S. Imperialism". Follows full text of the article:

"It has been for weeks already that the leaders of the administration and the Pentagon vie in eloquence in Washington in an attempt to prove that a threat to the security of the United States and its 'vital interests' is developing in the Near and Middle East. Hackneyed tunes about a 'Soviet military threat', about 'Moscow's hand' which is allegedly stretching out to the warm seas and the oil resources there is being played with energy worthy of a better application. Assertions spun out of thin air and plain falsifications are being resorted to in order to substantiate and justify the USA's own military activity in the region and to palm it off as reply actions essential to prevent a catastrophe which ostensibly threatenes all and sundry.

The stereotyped ways of U.S. policy markers' thinking and actions are staggering at times. If U.S. statesmen and propaganda following them start vociferating about a 'Soviet threat'--it means that a new military program of the Pentagon or a new dangerous venture should be expected to emerge shortly. The talk of a 'Soviet threat' has turned into an original and exact indicator of the elaboration in Washington of steps directed against peace, detente and international cooperation, against socialist countries, against national liberation movements and social changes. It is these actions of the USA that are fraught with a real, not mythical, threat to states, to their independence and sovereignty, and often to their very existence. Therein lies the cause of tension in international relations, and the essence of complexities the world is experiencing today.

Is there a common denominator in the U.S. administration's outwardly isolated actions in the Near and Middle East, actions unconnected with one another in time and space? Is there an interconnection between the fact that the United States for decades has been as a matter of fact frustrating a just political settlement in the Middle East, and what is now taking place in the Persian Gulf area and in the western part of the Indian Ocean? Is not the U.S. reaction to the events, first in Iran and then in Afghanistan--an extremely nervous, bellicose and aggressive reaction--a derivative of U.S. long-standing conceptions which envisage the establishment of U.S. control over the important, strategically and in other respects, region of the globe by any means?

There can be only one answer to all these questions--an answer in the affirmative. Really, the louder the shouts about a 'Soviet military threat'" the deeper and broader the penetration of a concrete country or region by the U.S. soldier and dollar. It is not a question of defending someone from somebody's encroachments; Washington does not ask whether a country which the USA intends to gratify by its 'care' needs support or defence. The USA everything decides for that country in advance, proceeding from the imperial conceptions, from the claims upon the leading role, on special privileges in the world. [sentence as received]

The USA does not like answering the question on what ground and by what right it acts in this or that way and seeks to subordinate others to its requirements and to impose its way of thoughts and actions on them. Such a question is either ignored (just as the masters of other people's natural wealth are ignored in general) or it is stated in reply to it: By the right of the strong! It is permissible, however, to ask how the world will look like if other states, too, as much as they can will follow Washington's example and start dividing the globe into 'spheres of their vital interests'?

Attempts to achieve something like that had already been made in the epoch of colonial seizures and imperialist recarving of the world. At that time it had resulted in the loss of life by tens of millions of people, in the collapse of some states, and in the destruction of the economies and national culture of other ones. To revive such ways in international affairs nowadays, with the present technological development level, and with the present populousness of many continents is a crime.

It is not today that the U.S. threat to the countries of the Near and Middle East emerged. In the light of the latest events hardly anyone will have any doubt that the threat by U.S. former Defense Secretary Schlesinger, the threat which has been repeated many times since the beginning of 1974--to seize oilfields by force if the energy-exporting states will do damage to the industrialised world--and State Secretary Kissinger's so called policy of 'small steps' proclaimed approximately at the same time were part of a single whole. The course towards achieving separate settlements in the Near East closely followed the activities for military penetration into the region. The 'small steps' have developed in the end into the Camp David deal and As-Sadat's capitulation before Israel, and the militarist plans--into the creation of so-called 'rapid deployment corps', and into the expansion of the network of U.S. military bases and strong points, the build-up of U.S. naval and air forces concentrated in the eastern Mediterranean and in the western part of the Indian Ocean.

In January 1980 the Persian Gulf area was officially declared a zone of 'vital U.S. interests'; threats were uttered in Washington to take arms if the situation in the area proves destablised. This was the manifestation of Washington's conviction that the United States has gathered strength for getting down, as it were, to 'business', and that it now possesses, according to Brzezinski, for example, a sufficient potential for the conduct of military operations if it will be required by developments.

The U.S. threats are not simply a bellicose stance. Behind them there are real measures and quite concrete plans to use any necessary means, right up to nuclear weapons at a moment when in Washington it will be deemed 'expedient' to do that. It is even explained that such a moment may be caused not only by external developments but also by internal processes in individual countries of the region, processes which for some reasons do not suit the USA. It is publicly stated virtually that the USA will not tolerate another Iran, and that this time the USA will not limit itself to intimidation but will go to the most extreme measures.

In this context, of course, close attention, particularly that of the Near and Middle East countries, was attracted to reports that the Pentagon is instructed to work on versions of a 'limited nuclear war' with delivering 'selective nuclear strikes at enemy military facilities'.

Judging by the evidences of the U.S. press, the USA intends to keep a powerful naval force in the Persian Gulf area and the western part of the Indian Ocean for an indefinitely long time, to move 'floating depot' ships with stocks of heavy armament there, and to create bases or strong points in the territories of Kenya, Somalia, Oman, and other states, to practice cooperation with Israel, and also, as far as possible with Egypt in case of big military operations against 'common enemies'.

At the end of last year it was Iran that was marked out by the Pentagon as the first objective for a massive strike. Among the alternative versions that have been considered at the White House were reportedly delivery of strikes at Iranian oil-producing and oil-processing centres as well as the establishment of a naval blockade of Iran's coast. Those plans have been put off after Washington decided to change tactics and lay an emphasis in spiralling up the militarist programs on the Afghan events by moving to the fore anti-Soviet and anti-communist moves and on the camouflaging of the anti-Arab and anti-Iranian directedness of the activities which are being carried out by the USA. Whatever the pronouncements in Washington to the contrary, the Carter administration is deliberately going to an aggravation of the situation around Iran and Afghanistan in order to have a handy pretext for continuation and build-up of dangerous intrigues in that entire region.

The massive hullabaloo raised around Afghanistan and Washington's current sabre-rattling produce a certain impression on those who do not mind yielding to it or speculating on contradictions between the 'quarrelling giants'. But in general among that group of countries, too, there is a gradually growing realisation of the true state of things. The number of those who wish to pull chestnuts out of the fire for the USA--even if for a certain payment--dwindles. But this does not in the least embarrass the United States leadership. It pretends that it does not notice the discontent of the states, situated in the region or in the adjacent areas, over Washington's attempts to draw them into its military orbit. It ignores official statements, such as for example, by the Government of Kuwait which pointed out that there is no threat to the region, and that, accordingly there is no need for any U.S. 'aid', and that for the peoples inhabiting the Middle East it would be better if the Americans leave them in peace.

The logic of the reasoning by those who shape Washington's present policy is this: If something is good for the Americans, it must be good for others as well, and, vice versa, if something does not suit the USA, others, too, should feel in the same way and do what they are ordered from across the ocean. If however, this or that government is unwilling to obey such hegemonistic logic, then, it is believed in Washington, one may cast doubt on that government's 'democratic character' and to raise the question of how stable is the regime in that country and whether there is a need to 'put the things right' by means of a military coup, for example.

There are also other means in the arsenal. Some people in the USA believe that it will be easier to attain lasting goals if by dragging out a political settlement of the problems that have long been making the situation in the Near and Middle East feverish, problems that the peoples of the area inherited from the colonial past.

For the sake of this the United States sets individual countries and various groupings inside those countries against one another, provokes military clashes now between Ethiopia and Somalia, now between North and South Yemen, and, again, laying on others the blame for instability for the emergence of an 'arc' of crises in the western part of the Indian Ocean.

Problems which exist in the Near East and in the Persian Gulf are not amenable to a military solution. Only the ensurance of a lasting peace, unconditional renunciation of interference in internal affairs, and a consistent exercise of the principles of good-neighbourliness can be an indispensable condition for their genuine settlement in the interests of both peoples of the region and of other states interested in the sources of energy and raw materials located there. Not a militarisation of the Near East and the Persian Gulf zone, not the formation of new military blocks and creation of new military bases, not the dispatch of new and new warships to the shores of states that are situated at distances of thousands and thousands of kilometers away from the United States but, on the contrary, a limitation on military activity, restraint in what concerns reliance on strength, and in no way an encouragement of others to ventures. There is no other way. If of course, there is no desire to provoke conflicts and to give rise to them whatever the cost.

The Soviet Union repeatedly emphasized, in the most recent time as well, that its political course remaining unchanged. The USSR does not covet other people's resources, does not encroach on the security of other states, does not want to impose its way of life on them, and does not seek any special rights and privileges for itself. Our principles are peaceful cooperation, and a political settlement of all problems to mutual satisfaction and mutual benefit."

MOSCOW PERSIAN ON REASONS BEHIND U.S. SUPPORT FOR SHAH

NC221525 Moscow in Persian to Iran 1630 GMT 21 Mar 80 NC

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpt] The amassing of U.S. naval units along the Iranian coast continues while new references to this stationing and encampment is often linked to reports on Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, the deposed shah, who is thousands of miles away from Tehran and living on Contadora Island in Panama.

There is a direct link between present U.S. anti-Iranian acts and its treatment of the deposed shah. Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, who ruled Iran for 38 years, was considered by Washington to be their man. When in 1953 the throne became shaky, the United States helped Mohammad Reza to roll the national liberation movement in blood and helped him return to his throne. As a gesture of gratitude, the shah opened Iran's doors wide to the Americans so that they could plunder the country's wealth, above all, its oil.

At that time the American monopolies and the shah's family were able to amass astronomical wealth while the Iranian people were swept further down the paths of poverty, hunger and strife.

Some time ago, a UN international commission went to Tehran to study documents proving the crimes of the shah's regime.

More than 100 Iranian men, women and children who had been disabled in SAVAK prisons testified. Meanwhile hundreds of documents on financial misappropriations were submitted to the international commission. These indisputable documents show that during his reign Mohammad Reza Pahlavi paid millions of dollars in bribes to a number of U.S. political officials, including former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger. This explains Kissinger's support for him today. The United States has refused to hand over the deposed shah to Iranian officials and is, instead, trying to defend him. U.S. propagandists present him as an unfortunate, rejected and sick person who has not been left in peace. All these acts are aimed at distracting public attention from the criminal past of this United States puppet and from the policy of blackmail and threats which Washington is presently using against Iran.

Recently a Western correspondent went to Contadora Island and, while reporting that the deposed shah is enjoying all the boons of life on this paradise island, referred to remarks by Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, who claims that he is not thinking of retiring from Iran's throne and hopes to return to Iran. This return might have been promised to him by his American masters. At any rate, the United States is clearly trying, once again, to gain dominance over Iran's oil and other wealth, and this is why it is supporting the shah, of course hoping that the shah might, someday, be needed.

'MACHINATIONS' TO PREVENT SHAH'S EXTRADITION REPORTED

LD222238 Moscow TASS in English 2211 GMT 22 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Panama, March 22, TASS--Washington of late stepped up again the backstage intriguing around the deposed shah of Iran, seeking to prevent at any cost the extradition of that criminal to Iran.

According to reports of Western news agencies, Hamilton Jordan, assistant to the U.S. President, made a trip to Panama. It is pointed out that the aim of the trip was to discuss the question of a surgical operation on the shah.

But it can be concluded from reports that Jordan's trip is connected with the fact that the United States is trying to reach agreement with the Panamanian authorities on the further stay of the deposed shah in Panama or on his going to some third country. The matter is that the term for the shah's stay in Panama expires at the end of March, and a representative of the Iranian judiciary is to present to the Panamanian authoritories before March 24 the formal demand for the extradition of the deposed shah to Iran.

The machinations of Washington that continued ignoring Iran's lawful demand for the extradition of the criminal are connected with the fact that in case of the shah's extradition to the Iranian authorities and his trial, new facts might come to light to reveal the subversive activity of U.S. imperialism in Iran and the contacts of U.S. officials with the shah's regime.

Paris, March 22, TASS--According to a report of FRANCE PRESSE, Iran's Foreign Minister Sadeq Qotbzadeh today warned Henry Kissinger and David Rockefeller about the possible negative consequences of their attempts to ensure for the former shah the departure from Panama before Tehran presents to the Panamanian authorities its demand for the extradition of the former monarch.

Sadeq Qotbzadeh told FRANCE PRESSE that if this action by Kissinger and Rockefeller resulted in the shah's departure from Panama and in the suspension of the process of his extradition, this would have disastrous consequences, would drag out the procedure that was started with the aim of solving the problem of the release of the hostages and would damage the interests of peace in the region.

As is known, Henry Kissinger, former U.S. state secretary, and David Rockefeller, the chairman of the board of the Chase Manhattan Bank, one of the biggest U.S. banks, were actively pressing in the past for the granting of political asylum to the former shah in the United States. The point is that the clan of Rockefeller multimillionaires was getting large profits from the deals with the shah's regime, and Kissinger worked as their consultant.

PERSIAN COMMENTARY EXPLAINS U.S. 'EAGLES' IRANIAN DOCTRINE

NC222000 Moscow in Persian to Iran 1630 GMT 22 Mar 80 NC

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Anti-Iranian hysteria continues in the United States. Recently, Democratic whip Cranston called for the immediate severing of relations with Iran and for it economic and diplomatic isolation on a world scale. The American eagles--manifestations of the interest of large military and industrial companies--have called for the military occupation of Iran. One of these eagles is a Washington STAR editor, (Begley), who has impudently said that Iran's sovereign rights should be placed under the dependence of the United States' sovereign rights.

What can one say about this? Acts by American politicians and military officials show that Washington wants to return to its era of unrestrained colonialist policy of banditry in international relations. This policy is actually being implemented at present by a group of U.S. warships in the Persian Gulf.

According to reports published in the Washington POST, U.S. Secretary of Defense Brown has ordered the preparation of a detailed plan for mining the Persian Gulf. American imperialists' acts in this region, which is thousands of miles away from them, would make one think that the Persian Gulf is a U.S. lake. They have begun mining the Hormuz Strait in order to deprive Iran of the possibility of selling oil to other countries. Is this not a policy of banditry?

It is clear to all that the American eagles doctrine of depriving Iran of its sovereign rights is based on an official and completely clear imperialist plan of Washington. On the basis of this plan the United States considers that any point where oil and other natural resources exist is in its so-called sphere of vital interests. If U.S. imperialism could, it would declare its ownership of Iran's oil as well and would deprive the Iranian people of their sovereignty over this natural wealth. This is why the Pentagon has turned the barrels of its battleships' guns toward Iran and other oil-producing countries in the Persian Gulf. Ayatollah Khomeyni was right in saying that U.S. imperialism has always coveted and continues to covet Iran's oil wealth.

During the past 25 years U.S. imperialism, by depending on the shah's antipopular regime, has trampled Iran's sovereign rights. Now the foreheads of the U.S. imperialists and of the former shah, who committed savage crimes in Iran, have been branded with disgrace. But instead of confessing its crimes to the Iranian people and ceasing its intervention in this country's domestic affairs, the United States is threatening Iran with its club. The U.S. TIME magazine scares Iran with threats of bombings, and the WALL STREET JOURNAL, the organ of U.S. financial circles, with the landing of American marines in Iran.

The Iranian people continue their struggle against these oppressive U.S. imperialist acts and to defend right and justice and in order to be masters of their country. The Soviet Union and other socialist countries, as well as all progressive forces of the present generation, support the Iranian people, and the U.S. leaders cannot ignore this reality.

MONDALE STATEMENTS ON IRANIAN SANCTIONS REPORTED

LD221854 Moscow TASS in English 1830 GMT 22 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Washington, March 22, TASS--The United States is stepping up a campaign of blackmail with regard to Iran. Asked if the United States intends to start a naval blockade of Iran or take other similar actions, Vice President Walter Mondale said in an interview with the American C.B.S. television network that they constantly examine many variants of possible actions but he would not like to go into detail. Walter Mondale pointed out that although formally the United States is not yet applying sanctions against Iran, trade between the United States and Iran has been practically stopped, Iranian assets in the United States frozen, and other steps are being taken to compel the Iranians to make concessions. The vice president added that at present, he cannot and should not say about these steps. The newspaper Washington POST reported that after the capture of the hostages the Carter administration had examined the Pentagon's plans of occupying the Island of Kharq in the Persian Gulf through which the bulk of Iranian oil is exported. It had been also envisage to bomb Iran, stage a naval blockade against it and mine the Persian Gulf.

PRAVDA SENATOR LUGAR ON IRAN POLICY, POWELL ON UN PANEL

LD241211 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 20 Mar 80 p 5 LD

[TASS report under the general headline "Around Iranian Events"]

[Text] Washington, 19 March--Flagrant threats against Iran continue to emanate from the U.S. capital. Speaking in the Senate, R. Lugar, member of the influential Senate Foreign Relations Committee, demanded that the government adopt "constructive and strong" measures with respect to that country. At a press conference White House spokesman Powell stated that a "process of analysis and assessment" of events is now underway in the U.S. administration, in particular "whether there is any sense in keeping" the international commission to examine Iran's claims with respect to the former shah's crimes and U.S. activity in Iran. President Carter has regular conferences with his advisers on this question. "We have not yet reached a final conclusion," the White House spokesman added, as if it were a question not of an international organ set up by the UN secretary general but of some American delegation.

RACHKOV SCORES U.S. MOVES TO EMPTY ARAB OIL RESERVES

LD221830 Moscow in Arabic to the Arab World 1530 GMT 22 Mar 80 LD

[Boris Rachkov commentary: "The American Neocolonialists and the Black Gold"]

[Text] Kuwait, Libya, Abu Dhabi, Nigeria and other OPEC members recently announced that they will cut oil production levels by almost 20 percent beginning on 1 April. We asked Boris Rachkov, the prominent Soviet oil expert, to comment on this decision:

This decision reflects the natural desire of the oil producing countries to expose the exploitation by American and other Western monopolies of their oil, which is almost their sole source of foreign currency income. Experts believe that if current production levels are maintained, oil resources will run dry in 20-30 years. Nevertheless, the Western oil monopolies, particularly American ones, reacted hostilly to this decision. The United States, in contradiction to this decision, is attempting to increase oil exports from OPEC countries. U.S. Energy Secretary Charles Duncan visited the Middle East a while ago for this purpose and tried in Saudi Arabia to win an increase in oil exports to the United States of 50 million tons. The Saudis, however, as was reported by the Washington POST, sent him home emptyhanded.

Saudi Arabia, like other OPEC members, justly points to the complete absurdity of the U.S. demands on others' oil. The United States itself has huge energy resources in the ground. On top of the 4 billion [as heard] of regular oil, the United States has an enormous quantity of coal and peat, from which liquid and gaseous fuel can be obtained. This fuel can successfully replace oil. The United States also has huge reserves of geothermal and solar energy as well as other alternative sources. The national energy program presented by President Carter in July last year stated that total U.S. energy resources are 5 times more than those in the Middle East. The first official energy project was approved by Nixon in the fall of 1973. It sought to free the United States from dependency on imported oil by developing U.S. energy resources by 1980. But the United States over these years has imported more and more oil. In 1980 the Carter administration decided to limit oil imports to 420 million tons, that is, 110 million tons more than U.S. oil imports in 1973. Over the last 7 years, U.S. dependency on the foreign market has increased by almost one-third. Foreign oil exports now account for about 75 percent of the general U.S. oil consumption.

What is the fact of the matter here? The fact is that U.S. and other Western monopolies continue to prefer to plunder others' resources on a neocolonialist basis because this procedure remains profitable. By exploiting Arab oil, Western oil companies last year doubled and even tripled their profits in some cases. The American neocolonialists not only import others' oil to consume it but also import it in huge quantities for reserves. In 1977 the Carter administration decided to fill natural land vacuums in Texas and Louisiana before 1986 with 140 million tons of oil to serve as a reserve in the event of an emergency such as sudden oil embargo.

U.S. imperialism, with the strategic reserves it is creating with Arab oil, will quickly supply not only its armed forces which are directed against the Arab world but will also use these reserves to detablize Arab oil prices on the international market, a situation which is also affected by its strategic reserves of [word indistinct] rubber and other materials. Therefore, it is not surprising that U.S. imperialism rudely ignores the legitimate demand of developing countries which seek to prevent the premature exhaustion of their hidden resources. The U.S. ruling circles can, of course, find resources to develop alternative national energy sources by reducing their huge military expenditures, for example. It is sufficient to mention that the United States has spent more than $700 billion for military purposes during the years of the energy crisis alone.

Half of this sum would have been sufficient to free the United States forever from the burden of its dependency on foreign oil resources. But the colonialist inclination of U.S. imperialism and the greed of the industrial military complex drive Washington away from effective ways of solving the energy problem. Yesterday, the Carter administration spoke of the need for the United States to study energy resources for itself. Today, the United States is feverishly increasing its military strength in the gulf region. This is directly aimed at the Arab countries and other oil producers on which the huge American capital [word indistinct] and strives to place the burden of solving the energy problem on the shoulders of others.

ZHANG VISIT SEEN STRENGTHENING MILITARY ALLIANCE

LD211446 Moscow TASS in English 1333 GMT 21 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Washington, March 21, TASS--China's Deputy Foreign Minister Zhang Wenjin, who is on a visit here, has concluded his talks with high-placed representatives of the U.S. administration and left Washington for New York.

No communique on the results of the talks was published. It follows, however, from statements by officials and from the press that the sides had discussed a wide range of international questions and first of all the situation in south-west Asia. The Chinese minister fully supported the American policy of increasing tension by building up American military presence in various parts of the world under the pretext of the events in Afghanistan. The Washington POST writes in this connection that the anti-Soviet turn in America's foreign policy got Zhang Wenjin's approval.

At the talks, the press writes, special attention was given to stepping up the aggressive actions of the United States and China against the lawful Government of Afghanistan, in particular, increasing aid to the bands of mercenaries who make raids into that country. The Washington POST noted that the Chinese envoy had contended that such aid was quite "legitimate and necessary".

The sides have agreed to continue giving extensive support to the mercenaires who have entrenched themselves on Pakistani territory and are being infiltrated into Afghanistan. In addition to this Beijing actually demanded of Washington greater financial injections to the Ziaul Haq regime, stating that the sum of 400 million dollars offered by the United States was "insufficient".

The results of the talks also point to a strengthening of the military alliance of the United States and China with the aim of staging joint actions to undermine detente and stability in the world. As it has already been reported, in the course of the visit the U.S. administration adopted the decision of the sale to China of equipment that can be used for military purposes, in particular, telecommunication systems and C-130 military transport planes. In addition to this, Washington POST reports, China has expressed interest in additional purchases of modern American military equipment, in particular, means of transport and communications and radar installations. A Chinese delegation will come to the United States next month to discuss details of these deliveries.

GOVERNMENT SPLIT OVER EQUIPMENT SALES TO PRC

LD221452 Moscow TASS in English 1356 GMT 22 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Washington, March 22, TASS--The U.S. Government decided to sell U.S. equipment, which can be used for military purposes, to China. The equipment, the deliveries of which were announced by a State Department spokesman, includes telecommunication systems as well as C-130 military transportation planes.

As is reported, one prominent U.S. specialist in Chinese military problems, who engages in research in this field to Congress' and Pentagon's orders, holds that President Carter's decision to allow the sale to China of some types of equipment of military application has given rise to dual reaction in U.S. political circles.

The advocates of the course of an accelerated strategy of rapprochement with China, of whom there are many in the government, Congress, and generally among the "hawks", are welcoming the decision. At the same time a considerable number of political figures and experts, including those in the government, regard the expansion of U.S.-Chinese military contacts as a dangerous unpredictable thing fraught with an increase in confrontation with the Soviet Union.

The fact that the administration went to that step which is a change of its policy in the sphere of military contacts with China, and again without consultations with Congress, aroused a serious discontent on the Capitol Hill.

The U.S. administration continues efforts towards rapprochement with Beijing in a desire to use it as a bearer of U.S. strategic designs in Southeast Asia.

The United States Congress is considering the proposal submitted by the administration on vesting the overseas private investment corporation with powers to grant credit and credit guarantees to China to the tune of 200-250 million dollars in the course of five years. Mr Meissner, U.S. deputy assistant secretary of state for international finance and development, who spoke at the hearings, emphasized a special importance of widening economic contacts with China to prevent Beijing's departure from its present course. It was also pointed out that at the same time technicalities of the granting of the Export-Import Bank credits to China are being worked out in congress.

TALKS BETWEEN OKITA, U.S. LEADERS BEGIN

OW221402 Moscow in Japanese to Japan 1200 GMT 21 Mar 80 OW

[Anatolyev commentary]

[Text] Talks began in Washington yesterday between Japanese Foreign Minister Okita and U.S. leaders. The Japanese side made a series of important concessions from the first day of the talks.

The first of these concessions concerns Japan's military spending. The United States has long been applying overt pressure on Japan, contending that its defense expenditure is not large enough. In applying pressure on Japan, the United States ignores the fact that Japan's Self-Defense Forces [SDF] are already the sixth most powerful armed force in the world.

Moreover, it was generally believed in Japan that the nation spent 0.9 percent of its gross national product on defense. However, recently it has become clear that Japan's actual military spending is 1.5 percent of its gross national product.

Before leaving for the United States, Foreign Minister Okita said that it is desirable to rapidly increase defense spending. On the other hand, a poll conducted by ASAHI SHIMBUN at about the same time revealed that 54 percent of the respondents oppose an increase in Japan's military spending. An even greater number of them oppose strengthening the SDF.

Nevertheless, Foreign Minister Okita, now in Washington, has promised to increase Japan's military strength at talks with U.S. Secretary of Defense Brown, thereby committing the Japanese Government to some new defense measures. In addition, under pressure from the U.S. secretary of defense the foreign minister promised to increase Japan's share of the cost of maintaining U.S. forces in Japan.

Military issues were also an important subject at the talks between Foreign Minister Okita and U.S. Secretary of State Vance. Foreign Minister Okita listened to the U.S. demand for an increased Japanese military role in the Far East. Okita replied that Japan will import 100 modern fighter-bombers and other weapons from the United States.

Japan's other important concession to the U.S. strategy was its agreement to a plan for blockading the straits of Soya, Tsugaru, and Tsuhsima. The essential nature of this plan is not disguised simply by saying that this blockade will be enforced only in the event of an attack against Japan. Only recently Japan's foreign policy leaders were saying that no one was posing a threat to Japan. In fact, this is true. Nevertheless, they are now talking about an "attack." This indicates that Japan has now been dragged into supporting the Carter regime's anti-Soviet line, a policy which has nothing to do with Japan's interests.

As a result of this anti-Soviet line, Foreign Minister Okita also stated that the Japanese Government will not extend new loans to the Soviet Union to finance joint projects to develop natural resources in Siberia in the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union reacted immediately by indicating that the Soviet economy is not dependent on foreign loans. On the other hand, it is feared that Japan might lose supplies of raw materials and fuels which have long been guaranteed.

Bringing Japan into the global, militarist strategy of the United States was the main theme of the talks between Foreign Minister Okita and Brzezinski, the President's national security adviser. The United States asserted that both sides should compel the Soviets to accept the so-called Afghan neutrality plan. The Japanese side agreed to do so. As already noted, a plan to topple the current Afghan Government by diplomatic means is a hidden part of this proposal. In conclusion, Japan's freeze on economic assistance to Afghanistan and expansion of aid to Pakistan--which is making its land available for interventionist moves against Afghanistan--will clearly increase tension in this part of Asia. Foreign Minister Okita also failed to adopt an independent stance of the issue of U.S.-Iranian relations. In his talks with Secretary of Defense Brown, the foreign minister voiced support for the U.S. plan to establish a so-called rapid deployment force. Using this force on other U.S. military units against Iran--which again has been advocated in the United States--will inevitably aggravate Japanese-Iranian relations and relations with other countries in the Middle East. Clearly, a continuing flow of Middle East oil is a matter of life and death for Japan.

WASHINGTON MEASURES 'DANGEROUS INTRUSION ON DETENTE FABRIC'

LD211105 Moscow ZA RUBEZHOM in Russian No 12 Signed to Press 13 Mar 80 pp 4-5 LD

[G. Kuznetsov article: "The Self-Abasement of Cyrus Vance"]

[Text] The Chicago Council on International Relations, which has existed for about 60 years, is regarded in the United States as one of the leading centers for analysis of the country's foreign policy. On 3 March U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance took advantage of the council's platform to deliver a speech devoted to outlining the main aims of Washington's policy on American-Soviet relations.

Perusal of its text causes above all a feeling of perplexity: How could a prominent statesman, a lawyer by education and, if American sources are to be believed, a man notable for his sober-mindedness, sink to such self-abasement in fruitless attempts to justify the aggressive and expansionist U.S. course in the international arena? His whole reasoning is based on the overt distortion of well-known facts of international life and a lack of respect for international law.

Vance's speech contains two claims that serve as a kind of starting point for his explanation of U.S. policy. The first boils down to saying that the United States, "because of its commitment to the principles of national independence, territorial integrity and human rights," cannot "stand idly by" when "national boundaries are violated, when another country is deprived of its national independence." The second is a discourse on the theme that "a serious challenge has been made" to the United States. What sort of challenge? It transpires that because of "Soviet aggression" in Afghanistan "the freedom of the country and the people are at stake" and also "a wider threat" has been created to southwest Asia and the Persian Gulf.

Elementary honesty in handling the facts makes it possible to draw the only logical conclusion: In granting Afghanistan assistance, in response to a request from its legitimate government, in repelling external aggression the USSR was acting in accordance with Article 51 of the UN Charter and also Article 4 of the friendship, good neighborliness and cooperation treaty with the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, which proceed from the premise that such assistance can be offered in accordance with the universally acknowledged right to individual or collective self-defense.

The introduction of Soviet troop contingents into Afghanistan is subordinated to the strictly limited task of protecting the Afghan revolution against foreign intervention. Our country has no other goals. To realize that, Washington should have listened to the extremely authoritative statement by L.I. Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium: "I want to state with the utmost clarity that we will be prepared to start withdrawing our troops as soon as all forms of external interference aimed against Afghanistan's Government and people are completely ended."

Cyrus Vance declares that the United States cannot stand idly by when national borders are violated. It would have been more honest to say that the United States has never stood idly by when national borders have been violated because the one to violate them has been Washington, which in 30 postwar years sent in troops against other countries on 215 occasions and maintains 2,500 military bases right around the globe.

In outlining the five goals of foreign policy vis-a-vis the Soviet Union the secretary of state deliberately puts the U.S. plans for building up military might in last place and, portraying cause as effect, ascribes them to events in Afghanistan. However, merely by listing the American efforts in the sphere of the arms race he refutes himself and shows that it was by no means Afghanistan that prompted the swift rise in the military budget by $20 billion in a single year, the adoption of "the most comprehensive program for modernizing our defense forces, including strategic forces," and the implementation of the NATO decisions on deploying new American nuclear missiles in Europe and "improving" nonnuclear forces. All these plans were approved by Washington long ago in its attempts to restore its former military superiority in order to dictate its will to all the world.

When beginning a new round of the arms race needed by the military monopolies and the Pentagon, U.S. ruling circles often speak of the need to "build muscles" so as to be able to "react to any crisis." However, the most modern types of armaments did not save the United States from shameful defeats in Vietnam, Iran and Nicaragua. In this connection S. Hoffman, the eminent American specialist on international affairs, has remarked, rather caustically, that the U.S. foreign policy failures are bound up "not with muscles, but with brains." And indeed, Washington manifestly lacks the basic ability to see events in the correct perspective. So now Vance is justifying the American imperialists' old method of recourse to force at the least excuse and is trying to pressure the Soviet Union by restricting or severing trade and economic, scientific and technical ties, despite the fact that all these measures, by his own admission, "involve sacrifice--for our farmers and businessmen, athletes, scientists; indeed, for all of us." These actions show that the Carter administration is demonstrating before the whole world its lack of respect both for international documents concluded by the U.S. Government and for its own word.

Vance claims: "We seek no return to the cold war, to the indiscriminate confrontation of earlier times." The United States, along with its allies, he says, "is deeply interested in building East-West relations so as to preserve their most important foundations and principles"; "nor is it in our interest during a period of heightened tensions to destroy the framework of East-West relations that has been built over more than two decades"; "the United States, for its part, would welcome a more stable relationship with the Soviet Union."

At first glance this is a sober statement and could be welcomed. But in fact, as a result of a whole series of consistent moves, the U.S. administration is drawing nearer and nearer to the cold war entrenchments. Taken together, Washington's measures mark a dangerous intrusion on the complex fabric of detente (despite the secretary of state's claim to the contrary), especially as it is impossible to say in advance where and at what stage the irreversible process of its destruction, fraught with the most unpredictable consequences, may begin.

Despite Mr Vance's denials, Washington is interfering in third states' affairs, unceremoniously pressuring their governments and trying to dictate to the Thai Government, for instance, whether it should continue its normal trading in rice with the USSR, to Columbia's authorities whether they should trade in meat, to Argentina and Brazil whether they should trade in wheat and corn and to the European states whether they should trade in particular items of technology.

"The U.S. allies are resisting the American pressure to make them introduce tough economic sanctions against the Soviet Union," BUSINESS WEEK, the organ of U.S. business circles, has been forced to admit, while New York's NEWSDAY writes with still greater frankness: "America's European allies believe that President Carter has overreacted to the situation in Afghanistan and disagree fundamentally with his analysis of events."

"Detente cannot be divorced from deterrence," runs the phrase coined by Vance in his summing up. It is well known that by "deterrence" Washington means the policy of confrontation with the Soviet Union based on the arms race. And, to all appearances, that is essentially the main thrust of the foreign policy doctrines of the administration of Carter, who openly declared during a recent meeting with regional newspaper editors: "We are acting on a basis of strength, from a position of strength...."

However, it would be naive to think that the adventurist "doctrines" of the new champions of the "position of strength policy" are dangerous merely to one individual country or group of countries. They pose a threat to all the world and to the security of all states and peoples. And this is the chief danger in the U.S. foreign policy course championed by Vance in his Chicago speech. As for the Soviet Union, our stance has been defined perfectly clearly by L.I. Brezhnev: "We counterpose to the 'doctrine' of war hysteria and a frantic arms race and doctrine of a consistent struggle for peace and security on earth."

ONLY MILITARY-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX WILL GAIN FROM MX PROGRAM

LD211019 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 19 Mar 80 p 5 LD

[B. Gribachev article: "'Racetrack' Favorites; Unadvertized Monopolies"]

[Excerpts] "This is the cleanest corner of nature in the entire U.S. territory"--with these words former U.S. Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall traced a circle on a map including the states of Nevada, Utah and Arizona.

By wicked irony Pentagon plans envisage the deployment of the new mobile MX missiles precisely in this part of the country. According to the new idea, 4,600 shelters will be dug for the 200 MX milsiles, 200 acres of land around each shelter will be fenced off, and also at the same time two major missile assembling bases--one in Utah state and the other in Nevada--are being isolated. According to AP, "high-ranking officials" are unanimous on the way to deploy the missiles--in the form of an enormous 'racetrack' which, in their opinion, will minimize the impact on the environment."

The purity of the environment, however, troubles the potential contractors least of all. When the sky begins to rain gold it is foolish to run with a purse--you need safes. The treasury purse-strings are virtually already untied. Officially Americans have been told that $30 billion will completely suffice to create the mobile missile. Then somebody produced yet another figure: 40 billion. And Senator H. Bellmon predicted that creation of the MX would cost no more and no less than 120 billion. By no means cheap for the taxpayer: But in the end U.S. Air Force representatives explained authoritatively that the MX will be the largest missile ever created in the country; each one weighs 418 tons....

Favorites have already appeared on the Pentagon's racetrack. As long as 2 years ago the air force officially asked corporations to present plans for a giant nuclear missile within 45 days. Some $245 million was allocated for the development of the MX in the Pentagon budget for fiscal 1979. The first step is the hardest! In the 1980 budget this sum will increase to 670 million, then it will exceed 1 billion.

The Boeing, Martin Marietta and Rockwell International corporations and two laboratories fulfilling military orders in Livermore, California state, and Los Alamos in the state of New Mexico will share the profits and honor of firms looking after "national security interests."

Henry M. Jackson, the "senator from Boeing"--who is the senator for Washington state--said that "the creation of this missile should have been approved a long time ago." If Boeing has now virtually got the order in its pocket, H. Jackson, the "people's elected representative," has been of great service in this. In working toward obtaining the main order for the MX, the corporation "in passing" picked up the contract for the modification of the B-52 bomber to equip them with cruise missiles which Boeing itself manufactures. The senator had powerful support because, as soon as their development began, construction of the MX missiles was sought not only by the military departments but also numerous ultra-rightwing organizations such as the "Committee on the Present Danger." The "committee" even circulated a report categorically demanding that the administration produce the MX--only in this way, as one of the "hawks" from this organization claims, would the White House prove that it is standing on guard of U.S. security. The racetrack favorites are beginning a new round of the dangerous arms race. The only one who can count on winning here is the U.S. military-industrial complex.

MANAKOV ON BACKING FOR EXPANDED SPACE-BASED ARMS PROGRAM

LD211619 Moscow LITERATURNAYA GAZETA in Russian 12 Mar 80 p 9 LD

[Anatoliy Manakov "Rejoinder": "Myths Feel Cramped on Earth"]

[Text] You really have to admit that initiative and zeal are not things that the Pentagon lacks. Especially now that the White House is giving it insistent orders, no longer encoded to "build up," "deploy" and "react quickly".... and you may be certain that the Pentagon will not hang around.

We will not simply make unsubstantiated allegations. Here are just a few of the most recent "enterprising suggestions" from the American defense department: Placing modified Minuteman-2 ICBMS in orbit in space; launching a large unmanned flying facility [obekt] for the Minuteman-3; developing a missile capable of being launched into space from a jet fighter. And those are only the projects that the press has reported, only part of the large-scale arms race toward which the military-industrial complex "eggheads" are with increasing persistence steering a course.

Here is a noteworthy fact--even quite recently officials in Washington would refuse categorically to discuss the topic of space weapons in the press, even anonymously. But today they are happy to talk about this without any provisos. Thus, for instance, it has been learned that 113 of the 487 space shuttle flights planned for the next decade are for purely military purposes. [paragraph continues]

Air Force Secretary H. Mark forecasts that the first Americans to go into space for long periods will certainly not be outstanding test pilots but electronics specialists. It will be part of their mission, in particular, to "examine other countries' satellites to find out how they work." Lt Gen T. Stafford, who heads research and experimental design work in the air force, develops the ideas of his boss and tells a broad audience, in equally vivid terms, of a future fleet of two-man spaceships capable of taking off from ordinary airfields and landing at their base after performing missions in space. In Stafford's opinion, such a fleet, equipped with laser weapons, could join the arsenal even before the end of the 20th century.

Why, are all these lethal marvels being conjured up? U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT, in whose pages the aforementioned military men have been featured, asked them that question too--in a somewhat different form, it is true: "Will the U.S. Air Force in time conduct military operations outside the atmosphere?" To which an equally laconic reply was received: "Wherever there are things of value, people will fight for them." Let us nevertheless submit just one amendment, and at the same time introduce a little clarity. The Pentagon's space projects made their appearance some time ago. In the past 20 years, according to available American estimates, the United States has spend more than $50 billion on military purposes in space. All this, Washington assures people, was "pretty fragile equipment designed only to support ground operations." Much greater funds will be required to create the new, combate-effective means of space warfare that the Pentagon is advocating. Funds that are obviously so great that the department's leaders have now decided to mentally prepare the public, via the mass media, for another increase in military spending. The myth was finding things cramped. If you're going to scare the Americans, people in Washington think, why not do it from space. So, without any pangs of conscience, they catapult beyond the clouds the artificially fueled fear of the nonexistent "Soviet threat"--after all, it's much more difficult to verify the threat up there than it is on earth.

TANK PRODUCTION STEPPED UP, NEW CARRIERS FOR NAVY PLANNED

LD211621 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 18 Mar 80 p 3 LD

[Text] Washington, 17 March, TASS--The Pentagon is exploiting the miltarist psychosis fueled in the country by official Washington in order to sharply step up the arms race and devise new military programs.

Defense Secretary H. Brown has ordered the trebling of series production of the expensive new American XM-1 tanks, produced at the Chrysler corporation's plants. As is well known, the first tests of prototypes of the tank revealed serious technical and design flaws, in particular the unreliability of the engines and computerized fire-control system. However, despite this, the Pentagon is planning to get the Chrysler assembly lines working at full capacity as early as July. This means that 352 combat vehicles will be produced before the end of the current fiscal year and 569 will be produced next fiscal year, at a total cost of more than $1 billion. In all, according to the Pentagon strategists' intentions, the American Army should receive more than 7,000 XM-1's this decade.

Within the context of the course announced by Washington of "defending American interests" in various regions of the world, the Pentagon military are hastily devising new programs to strengthen the strike power of their naval forces. As the Baltimore SUN, a well-informed newspaper, reported, the U.S. Navy Department has reached the conclusion that it is "necessary" to develop several versions of new types of aircraft carrier. It is planned to create a so-called "hybrid" aircraft carrier costing $1.4 billion and capable of carrying both convential and VTOL warplanes, and also a "medium-displacement" aircraft carrier costing about 1.8 billion, which would be able to carry up to 60 aircraft. The program for building these ships covers the next 20 years, the newspaper notes. At the same time the U.S. war department is studying the question of developing a new deck-carried VTOL jet fighter.

IZVESTIYA HITS VOA, U.S. ADMINISTRATION HUMAN RIGHTS POSTURE

LD211359 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 18 Mar 80 Morning Edition p 5 LD

[Article by Prof Ye. Rusanov under the rubric "Attention--Misinformation: "VOA Falsifers"]

[Text] Recently many bourgeois mass information organs have once again started creating a ballyhoo in defense of human rights in socialist countries and, in particular, in the USSR. Special zeal is displayed in this respect by VOA radio station. In its Russian language broadcasts VOA calls its proteges "defenders of rights," "fighters for human rights," "fighters for the observance of the Helsinki accords," and so on and so forth. But everyone knows that all this is a verbal screen to conceal hostile elements and renegades who represent nobody but themselves in the socialist countries--agents of imperialist services and intelligence services who slander their own people and their own states.

Such people as Sakharov, for instance, are fighting not for human rights but for the right to pursue anti-Soviet, antisocial activity in the USSR and other socialist countries. Otherwise no bourgeois government or its leaders, no mass media in capitalist countries would support them. There is plenty of evidence of this. As is known, after the military coup in Chile the most reactionary, fascist-type junta came to power, and without trial or investigation it eliminated or imprisoned thousands of the political opponents, including prominent state and party figures. Why, for instance, did the bourgeois figures and their mass media not speak out in defense of Luis Corvalan, who languished for a long time in the torture chambers of Chile's military junta without being brought to trial--in what way was he blameworthy? But he is secretary general of the Chilean Communist Party, had been elected by the people to the post of senator in the country's legislative body and represented working class interests in that body.

Another example. In 1967, as a result of a piratical attack on Arab countries by the Israeli Army, armed with American weapons, millions of Palestinian Arabs were driven from their land and lost their homeland; the aggressor occupied other people's territory and has held on to it for more than 12 years, despite repeated UN and Security Council resolutions requiring Israel to release the occupied lands.

On whose side were the American administration and its mass media? On the aggressor's side.

Why do VOA gentlemen not call Yasir 'Arafat a defender of rights, when he is indeed a fighter for his people's rights, their right to return to their native land and their right to create their own independent state?

In the FRG many people are systematically deprived of professions and jobs for political reasons. But no American or British officials have come out in defense of these people. The gentlemen from VOA and BBC are silent on this issue. How can this one-sided, narrow, class approach to human rights be explained? After all, if you listen to VOA broadcasts you would think that its apparatus defends human rights in general, irrespective of class interests. But what actually happens?

Bourgeois governments and their mass media and intelligence services defend only those "fighters for rights" in socialist countries who are enemies and haters of the socialist system and serve imperialism's interests. The working people in socialist countries do not need such defense. Certain renegades like Sakharov would like, with the help of foreign intelligence services, to create some kind of fifth column for breaking up socialist society from within under the smokescreen of defenders of rights and fighters for human rights. But these are vain attempts. The working people in socialist countries will not permit anything of the kind. [paragraph continues]

They have supported and will continue to suport any necessary measures by their governments to nip such hostile activity in the bud, despite the howls of VOA and similar yesmen. The U.S. mass media and administration have created an unjustified fuss in connection with events in Afghanistan. Here the purpose of the sending of a limited contingent of Soviet troops to that country is clearly being distorted. The whole world knows that the sole purpose of sending Soviet military contingents of Afghinistan is to help the Afghans rebuff outside aggression. These contingents were sent in at the Afghan Government's request in accordance with the treaty between the two states and the principles of international relations, including Article 51 of the UN Charter.

In the New York TIMES newspaper the prominent American philosophy professor, John Sommerville, stated on this question: If that were illegal, our entire network of military alliances, with a large number of servicemen in foreign countries, would be illegal.

This legal aspect of the question is of great significance, but the main point lies elsewhere. The fundamental point is the purpose for which this or that side sends in its troops or sends military or other advisers to help the peoples of other countries. True to Lenin's precepts, the Soviet Union is always ready to fulfill its international duty. The Soviet state is always on the side of peoples defending their freedom and independence. But, as Comrade L.I. Brezhnev has rightly said, we never use our assistance to pressure those who receive it. As is known, the United States has had and still has troops and a large number of advisers of various kinds in many countries. But as a rule they are defending the most reactionary regimes. So it was in Vietnam, Iran and Nicaragua; so it is in South Korea, Chile and certain other countries. Here, for instance, is what the New York TIMES writes on this point: "Pakistan's Gen Ziaul Haq has so little confidence in his authority that he has postponed elections four times. He was unable to cope with the rebels--Baluchis and Pushtus--and filled the prisons with dissidents. For whom will the American weapons be destined?"

There is every indication that the broad masses of Pakistani working people do not support their military government's aggressive policy with respect to Afghanistan. On behalf of its 200,000 members, the Pakistani National Federation of Trade Unions sent a message to Afghanistan's trade unions expressing support for the Afghan people and government and declaring readiness to establish closer contacts with the working people of "progressive and Democratic Afghanistan."

All these facts indicate that the Afghan people's struggle against external and internal reaction and the support for this struggle on the part of the Soviet Union and other socialist countries and progressive forces of the world is a class struggle, that is, a struggle of the working people's masses against imperialism and reaction and for liberation from exploitation and imperialist slavery.

Where there are American troops and various kinds of advisers, the American dollar plus the CIA, there is no room for such concepts as honor, freedom and human rights. There, totally unrestricted exploitation of the working people, the flouting of elementary freedoms and human rights, corruption, bribery and other social vices which physically and morally cripple people flourish.

American imperialism cultivates in other countries the morals and customs which are characteristic of the United States itself, where corruption, bribery and graft permeate all spheres of the country's life, right up to the legislative and government organs. That is why the U.S. administration and its mass media have no moral right to lecture other states and governments, least of all the socialist countries, on how to behave on the question of human rights.

VASILYEV: PRC LEADERS PRESERVE MAO'S HEGEMONISM

ID220102 Moscow World Service in English 2100 GMT 21 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Our next item concerns the decisions taken by the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party to rehabilitate Liu Shaoqi and to strip four members of the Politburo, promoted during the Cultural Revolution, of all their posts. These decisions have prompted talk in the West that China has now embarked on a course of rapid and complete de-Maoization. However, our observer Viktor Vasilyev considers that a careful study of the documents of the Central Committee meeting does not warrant such conclusions:

Indeed, the communique on the meeting speaks of the need to reestablish the genuine image of Mao's ideas. There is no denying this is an issue that is agitating the Chinese. The people are demanding to be told at long last the full truth about Mao's activities and ideas which brought the country's economy to the verge of collapse, which led to the death of so many communists, true patriots of their country and which caused the elementary democratic rights and freedoms of citizens to be trampled underfoot. It is exactly this truth that is being withheld from the Chinese people. All the mistakes made are being blamed on Lin Biao and the leftist extremist group known as the gang of four.

This has produced something that appears as a paradox at first glance. On the one hand Deng Xiaoping and the other Chinese leaders who were victims of the Cultural Revolution are calling for an end to blind faith in Mao's infallibility. On the other hand, these same Beijing leaders are trying publicly to clear Mao of the responsibility for the errors and crimes of the Cultural Revolution. They are urging that Mao's ideas should remain the ideological mainstay of the Chinese Communist Party and of Chinese society in general.

Actually, there is no paradox here at all. Deng's group considers it unnecessary and even harmful for Mao to be censured openly in the party and among the masses. This is because Deng's group and those whom the Cultural Revolution brought to power and whom they are fighting equally adhere to the Maoist ideas of great-power chauvinism and hegemonism. Maoism is above all a set of hegemonistic ambitions in the world arena, a bid to build up a strong China capable of achieving its great-power objectives. That's in fact the mainspring of Mao's ideas.

The present Chinese leadership, just like Mao, advocates the establishment of a strong China which could teach neighboring countries lessons whenever it sees fit to do so. It advocates stepped-up war preparations. Indeed, while investments in the national economy were cut last year military allocations were boosted by the Beijing leaders by 20 percent. This being so it's to the advantage of the Beijing leaders to preserve the banner of Mao's ideas as an aid to keeping the people under control and legitimizing reliance on world war. By divorcing all the errors and crimes committed from Mao they are trying to modernize Maoism and adjust Mao's ideas to the needs of the day.

FU HAO URGES CHINA-JAPANESE 'ANTI-SOVIET' ALLIANCE

ID221238 Moscow TASS in English 1153 GMT 22 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Tokyo, March 22, TASS--Beijing is continuing its attempts to involve other countries into its adventurous anti-Soviet strategy, to make them follow a line which is to the liking of the Chinese hegemonists. This is evidenced, in particular, from the speech made by Chinese ambassador in Tokyo Fu Hao [title and name as received] before representatives of the Japanese business circles. Fu Hao launched slanderous attacks on the peace-loving foreign policy of the Soviet Union, of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the People's Republic of Kampuchea, openly urging Japan and other major capitalist countries to unite with China on an anti-Soviet footing. He declared for a further buildup of the Japanese armed forces.

The statement by the Chinese ambassador in Tokyo is regarded here as another confirmation of Beijing's designs to knock together a military-political alliance on an anti-Soviet basis so as to acquire access to the military arsenals of the United States, Japan and West European countries.

The Japanese press points out that China is seeking to expand military cooperation with the United States and its Western allies in the military blocs, is trying to win over the non-aligned countries in Asia. This is confirmed from the visits by high-placed emissaries of Beijing to the United States and several countries of South East Asia.

According to observers, Beijing's policy does not enjoy support in the Asian countries. The results of the recent tour of several ASEAN countries by Chinese Foreign Minister Huang Hua show that these states and China diverge in the assessment of the principal questions of the international situation, particularly, the situation in Indochina. This is determined by the fact that Beijing's adventurous course in the international arena runs counter to the interests of the peoples in Asia and throughout the world.

HANS APEL ARRIVES IN TOKYO FOR ARMS TALKS

ID231358 Moscow TASS in English 1244 GMT 23 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Tokyo, March 23, TASS--Hans Apel, West German defence minister, has arrived here for a three-day official visit.

He is to hold talks with Kichizo Hosoda, chief of the Japanese National Defence Agency, on the question of increasing military spending by the two countries and stepping up their cooperation in improving the technology of military production. The FRG defence minister is to offer Japan certain types of West German arms.

H. Apel is also to meet Prime Minister M. Ohira, Foreign Minister S. Okita and Minister of Foreign Trade and Industry Yoshitake Sasaki.

After his visit to Japan the West German minister will go to Australia and New Zealand.

USSR-DPRK COOPERATION SHOWS SOCIALIST INTERNATIONALISM

SK210931 Moscow in Korean to Korea 0930 GMT 17 Mar 80 SK

[Misailov commentary]

[Excerpts] Korea has signed a great many international agreements in its history.

However, the negative characteristics of these agreements have been reflected in the fact that these agreements have served the aims of capitalist, monopolist agencies and colonialists for violating the interests of the Korean people, for usurping the rich natural resources of the country and for exploiting the manpower strength of the people.

The USSR-Korea agreement signed on 17 March 1949 was the first international document according with the principle of socialist internationalism in People's Korea. Socialist internationalism reflects the spirit of guaranteeing the completely equal status of both sides, of mutually respecting independence and of ensuring noninterference, mutual aid and support. Experience vividly proves that the Soviet Union's friendship and cooperation with other socialist countries has laid a firm foundation to enable DPRK workers to confidently advance toward building a new society in a historically short span of time, eliminating the evil remains of the past infested with colonialism.

The achievements attained by socialist Korean workers, farmers and peoples intellectuals in various sectors of their daily life make a striking contrast with the reality of South Korea, which is infested with economic difficulties, with currency inflation, with unemployment, with soaring prices of daily necessities and with the daily deepening subordination to foreign capital, the anti-popular policy carried out by the Seoul regime supported by the U.S. imperialists has produced unfavorable results [ssurarin kyolgwa]

The commentator went on to say: The Soviet people have always regarded their assistance to fraternal Korea in building a new society as their international duty. Joining hands with their Korean friends, Soviet technicians have worked at construction sites in the republic. With the participation of these technicians, nearly 60 major industrial projects--the core elements [kolgan] of the national economy--have been rehabilitated, newly constructed and reconstructed [chaegon]. The continuous growth of mutual trade is an important foundation characteristic of the economic ties between the Soviet Union and Korea. Cultural cooperation between the Soviet Union and the DPRK has developed rapidly, and this cooperation has been enriched into a new form.

The development of the principle of the friendly cooperation and mutual aid between the Soviet Union and the DPRK since the first signing of the agreement between the two countries for economic and cultural cooperation, with the signing of this agreement as a starting point, demonstrates that the development of this principle completely complies with the interest of the daily life of the peoples of the two countries and to that of the consolidation of world socialism. Evaluating the result of economic cooperation among fraternal countries in his speech at the recent meeting of voters, Comrade Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the Supreme Soviet, said that this cooperation is a powerful stimulus for (?economically developing countries) and our common factor guaranteeing success in our confident advance movement.

AFGHANISTAN'S KARMAL NEW YEAR TELEVISION SPEECH NOTED

LD211852 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1420 GMT 21 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Kabul, March 21, TASS--On the occasion of the coming of the new Afghan year, Babrak Karmal, the general secretary of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, the president of the Revolutionary Council and the prime minister of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, delivered on Kabul Television a message to the Afghan people.

Afghanistan's traditional friendship with the Soviet Union, he said among others, has been taken to a qualitatively new level, representing the expression of the free will of the Afghan people. The disinterested economic and political assistance of the Soviet Union to the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan has not been tied up to any conditions. It aims at raising the well-being of the Moslem people of Afghanistan and constitutes a legal guarantee for the preservation of independence, national sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country. Aware of the immense role of this assistance and support, Babrak Karmal pointed out, the Afghan people will not permit anyone to denigrate the friendly relations between the two countries.

The limited contingent of Soviet troops, the Afghan leader said further, is in the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan at the legitimate request from the Afghan Government for assistance to repel an external aggression against the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and it will stay in its territory until the armed interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs is ceased. It is an open secret that this interference is being pursued by forces of international imperialism and reactionaries headed by the United States and including the Beijing hegemonists, Israel, Egypt, Pakistan and a number of other countries.

Babrak Karmal resolutely condemned the attempts, now being undertaken by these forces behind the back of the Afghan people and Afghanistan's lawful government, to "neutralize-Afghanistan, ensure its neutrality and to establish forces for the maintenance of peace", etc. Questions related to Afghanistan, he stressed, can only be decided by the Afghan people and its government themselves. The present crisis situation can be resolved by means of an immediate end to outside interference and to the armed aggression against Afghanistan.

Speaking about Afghanistan's foreign policy, Babrak Karmal pointed out that the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan is a nonalined country which supports the principles of positive and active neutrality, the policy of international detente, of universal and complete disarmament, against colonialism, imperialism, Zionism, fascism, racism and apartheid. The Muslim people of Afghanistan are brothers to all the Muslim peoples of the world. The Democratic Republic of Afghanistan sincerely strives to establish friendly relations with all countries, especially with other countries of the region and its neighbours on the basis of principles of equality, respect for sovereignty and non-interference in each other's affairs.

The fraternal Muslim ties between Afghanistan and Iran, Babrak Karmal said, require these countries to live in conditions of brotherhood and mutual understanding. The border between the two countries must be a border of peace and friendship. Declaring Afghanistan's desire to have friendly relations with Pakistan, Babrak Karmal pointed out that the course of whipping up tensions around Afghanistan pursued by the ruling circles of Pakistan poses a danger to the latter.

Its security can be assured only through a consolidation and development of friendly and peaceful relations with Afghanistan and other neighbours. The Afghan leader made a specific mention of the friendly relations enjoyed by Afghanistan with India.

The year which has ended, Babrak Karmal went on to say, was a period of immense deprivation for the Afghan people because of external armed aggression. As a result of the erroneous, antinational and antidemocratic policy of Amin, the country found itself in a situation of profound economic and social crisis. At the same time, it was a year of victory for the Afghan people in the struggle against imperialism and local and regional reaction and its minions in the person of Amin.

This year the April revolution, the Afghan leader pointed out, entered a new stage which opened up wide vistas to Afghanistan and its people. The country has enough possibilities to achieve successful socioeconomic development. In this connection Babrak Karmal stressed the need to establish peace so as to achieve progress in the country and expressed the confidence that the solidly united Afghan people would build a new, advanced and flourishing Afghanistan.

The general secretary of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan noted the importance of the creation of a broad national front in the country for resolving the tasks facing the Afghan people in the new year--the proportional socioeconomic development of the republic, a considerable increase in agricultural and industrial output, the flourishing of culture and the satisfaction of the population's basic requirements.

The unity of the party, the alliance of the country's national-democratic forces, the unity of the people and our Muslim brotherhood and the party's link with the homeland's national front and with the entire laboring Muslim population of the country constitute the guarantee of the victory of the liberating April revolution, the guarantee of a free, independent and revolutionary Afghanistan, Babrak Karmal concluded.

AFGHANS GREET NEW YEAR, SUPPORT REVOLUTION

LD220733 Moscow TASS in English 0615 GMT 22 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Kabul, March 21, TASS--The Afghan people has today the celebrations of seeing in the new year on the Afghan calendar, the year 1359. Workers, peasants, servicemen, representatives of intelligentsia and clergy are celebrating the new year in the atmosphere of the consolidation of the unity of the party and the people of Afghanistan in the struggle against the intrigues of international imperialism, the Beijing hegemonists and the reactionary circles of Pakistan that seek to liquidate the gains of the April revolution, independence and territorial integrity of the country. Celebration meetings were held today in many provinces. At these meetings, the working people expressed complete support for the policy of the leadership of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan meeting the aspirations of the working people and aimed at enhancing its prosperity.

The BAKHTAR NEWS AGENCY reports that there was a meeting today in Gardez, the centre of Paktia Province in the east of the country, between elders of Pashtun tribes residing in the province and Minister for Border and Tribal Affairs of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan F. Mohammad.

The elders of the tribes expressed complete solidarity with the revolutionary Government of Afghanistan and emphasized their readiness to protect independence, territorial integrity and national sovereignty of the country from the intrigues of internal and external reaction.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA REPORTS OPERATIONS AGAINST REBELS IN PAKTIA

LD241201 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 16 Mar 80 p 3 LD

[Special correspondent Yu. Gavrilov report under the rubric "Our Special Correspondent Reports From Afghanistan": "In the Border Region"]

[Text] Kabul, 15 March--When you fly by helicipter from Kabul to Gardez, the center of Paktia Province, and look down out of the window, you are aware that four-fifths of the area of Afghanistan is comprised of mountain ranges and plateaus. Beneath us are mighty rock conglomerations covered in ice and snow and dark crags. At the foot of the mountains huddle sparse kishlaks, surrounded here and there by little squares on land suitable for working....

Paktia is in the southeast of the country. Next to it is Pakistan from which the undeclared war against the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan [DRA] is being conducted. Enemies of the republic are dispatching saboteurs to this province, as they are to other border provinces, and are sending bandit groups into the mountains. Unbridled slanderous propaganda is also being conducted from Pakistani territory against people's power and the aims of the Afghan revolution.

Provincial Governor Hamid Khan Momayyez and Comrade (Dastargir), secretary of the People's Democratic Party Provincial Committee, relate that by their criminal actions the counter-revolutionaries, who are backed by U.S. imperialist circles, the Beijing hegemonists and reactionaries in Pakistan and Egypt, would like to complicate the situation in the province, arouse the populations dissatisfaction and disrupt peaceful life. By acts of terror and violence the bandits are striving to frighten the inhabitants. They are attacking activists, destroying schools and in a number of places preventing the peasants from beginning preparations for agricultural work.

However under the leadership of party organs, the local authorities and the committees for the defense of the revolution, the population is repulsing the criminals. This is natural as the majority of the inhabitants consider the defense of the revolution a cause for the entire people.

Yet another natural tendency can be clearly observed in Paktia as in other places. Some people previously ensnared by the enemies' false propaganda are inevitably recovering their proper insight. Families are returning to their native places from the so-called refugee camps despite the obstacles put in their way by the Pakistani authorities. Even people inexperienced in politics can see with their own eyes that the ringleaders of the gangs passing themselves off as "spokesmen of the people's interests" are in fact paid murderers and agents of the DRA's enemies. One of them, a certain (Dzhalaluddin) attempted to falsely present hemself as a mullah and leader of the Zadran tribe. But he was quickly seen for what he is. The hardened terrorist's gang was udterly defeated in the mountains and he himself only just escaped to his masters in Pakistan.
[paragraph continues]

Another example: In the (Matakhan) district the locals took up arms and drove out the bandits themselves without waiting for the forces of law and order to arrive.

In one of Gardez' squares stands a monument commemorating those who have died for freedom, independence and the revolution. In common with all those who live in the province, the soldiers of people's armed forces subunits revere the heroes' memory. Together with activists and the people's militia they are engaged in operations to clear the province of counterrevolutionaries and are neutralizing the actions of agents infiltrated from abroad. Senior Captain (Mael), an officer in the Third Army Corps, told me that in recent months a gang has already been liquidated, along with its head, in (Said-Karame). The terrorists have also been routed in a number of other places. Documents have been found on them showing them to be members of the "Muslim Brotherhood" and other reactionary organizations closely linked with imperialist circles and the Maoists.

Commander of the 12th Infantry Division Senior Captain (Abdol Mokhmad) told me that in some places reaction had even tried to conduct subversive propaganda among Afghan soldiers. But this ruse, like all the criminal acts against the revolution, is doomed to failure. Only in February the division's soldiers carried out successful raids against bandits in places like, for example, (Shiikut), (Dargay) and (Zandorgoray). Large quantities of weapons, including U.S. and Chinese-made weapons, were seized. Lieutenants (Abdoraim), (Atikola), (Timursho) and other young officers distinguished themselves in the operations.

...We traveled back to Kabul from Gardez along the highway. Our car looped its way along the mountain road. In the (Tirakundau) pass through a thick shroud of mist we could see people's silhouettes. They were Afghan soldiers guarding the road. On the other side of the pass we drove past villages sleeping peacefully.

It was late evening when we reached the capital. Kabul Radio was broadcasting news from Paktia Province: In the border town of Khowst Afghan Border Affairs Minister Fayz Mohammad had met with local residents. At a rally which has held representatives of various sections of the population and of a number of tribes expressed firm support for the government's policy and their readiness to resolutely rebuff the revolution's enemies.

AFGHAN OFFICIAL SCORES WESTERN MEDIA PROPAGANDA

LD212034 Moscow World Service in English 1500 GMT 21 Mar 80 LD

[Text] There is irritation among certain quarters in the West as well as in Beijing and Islamabad over the efforts the Babrak Karmal government in Afghanistan and the Afghan people themselves are making to stabilize the situation in the country. These quarters lie and slander over the events in Afghanistan. We have received this interview by our correspondent from a member of the International Ties Commission of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of that country, Rahim Rafat. Speaking about the inventions of the West's media about the events in Afghanistan, he said this in part: [begin recording]

I am well aware of the fact that a kind of propaganda campaign is launched and unleashed against the revolutionary, Democratic Afghanistan and they are all propagating lies. For example, they say that certain people have been killed or certain people have been murdered because of the interparty kind of skirmishes. But it comes out that it was really lies. This is what we could call kind of (?feeding) up the public opinion.

I would like to comment that the most important thing they are contemplating is they want to mobilize the public opinion of the whole world against Afghanistan, which is having the whole purpose or aim to isolate the Afghan revolution among its own sons. But they certainly make (?the) [word indistinct] and are doomed to complete failure. It is part and parcel of the general strategy of the world imperialism [words indistinct] in 1917 and what (?with) their Chinese allies and the renegade leadership of China and the reaction in the region and Arab reaction, the revolution is deeply rooted inside the masses, and if a revolution is supported by the masses themselves, then there is only one desperate kind of outlet and that is to propagate lies.

One of the falsifications they were propagating personally about me was that there were kind of allegations that perhaps the previous chief editor of the Kabul NEW TIMES had been dismissed because of the criticism that he had projected against the leadership of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan and the Revolutionary Council, and you yourself see that I have been just instructed and honored. I am not working in the state apparatus but [word indistinct] working with the party and that's why I am a member of the International Department of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan now and in this kind of [word indistinct] was (?at the trip taken) to Addis Ababa to participate in a bureau session of the World Peace Council, and so this is one of the proofs that show the true nature of the falsifications they arepropagating against Afghanistan. [end recording]

SOVIET SPECIALISTS ASSIST AFGHAN COTTON PROJECT

LD211726 Moscow TASS in English 1414 GMT 21 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 21, TASS-Soviet specialists are working out a project of a big ginnery for Afghanistan. The enterprise which is to be built in Mazar-e Sharif, Balkh Province, is to annually process up to 29,000 tons of raw cotton.

The designing of the ginnery is provided for by a long-term agreement on the development of economic and technical cooperation between the Soviet Union and Afghanistan. It covers various branches of industry, including the light and food ones.

A big plant bakery is under construction in Kabul with the Soviet Union's assistance. Equipment for it is to be supplied by Soviet enterprises. An olive canning plant is being built in Jalalabad with the USSR's technical assistance.

Within the framework of the agreement Soviet specialists also draw up a project for textile mill which is to be built in Charikar.

The two countries maintain cooperation on a mutual basis. Afghanistan supplies the Soviet Union with its traditional export commodities--citrus fruits, dried fruit, olives, leather, cotton, wool, and carpets.

SOVIET EXCHANGE OF FREIGHT TRAFFIC WITH AFGHANISTAN CITED

LD211728 Moscow TASS in English 1443 GMT 21 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Ashkhabad, March 21, TASS--The motorship Ashkhabad has left the river port of Chardzhou (Turkmenia) on the Amu Darya with a cargo of agricultural machines and selected cotton seeds for the farmers of Afghanistan. Other motorships and selfpropelled barges are now being loaded there to take machines, manufactures, foodstuffs and other goods to the neighbouring country.

The flow of goods traffic going to Afghanistan by the Amu Darya includes oil products, machine tools, food, etc. A special place among them is held by building materials for the cement plant in Pul-e-Khomomri, the Jalalabad irrigation canal, the north Afghan gas pipeline and other projects being built with Soviet assistance.

The goods going the other way include dry fruits, citrus fruit, persian lamb, wool and other agricultural produce.

After the April revolution the flow of cargoes going to Afghanistan by the Amu Darya has increased more than two and a half times.

MOSCOW HINDI: CIA'S BRAHMAPUTRA PLAN THREATENS INDIA

BK240040 Moscow in Hindi to India 1130 GMT 22 Mar 80 BK

[Vladimir Belov commentary]

[Text] The Indian press has written about the so-called Brahmaputra plan drawn up by the American intelligence agency. The objective of the plan is to set up a separate state in the northeast of India which will be extended east of the Brahmaputra River. The United States and China have for a long time paid great attention to the northeastern region of India adjacent to the Chinese border. The press reported sometime back that China plans to set up in the area a small state dependent on it. As a first move, China has provoked Bhutan to abrogate the India-Bhutan treaty of 1949. The U.S.-China scheme of setting up of a so-called people's democratic Bengal, which would include Bangladesh, West Bengal and Assam, is well known to everyone. They thought of setting up a new puppet state consisting of the northeastern states of India. A corridor plan was drawn in Beijing after consultations with Washington. According to LINK magazine, this corridor is supposed to extend from Thailand to India through areas of states neighboring China. It was decided to include the northern states of India and extend the corridor even to the Bay of Bengal. Although these plans which include the Brahmaputra plan, have various names, their objective is the same.

According to the CIA, the new state is to be formed from the separated Indian states of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagalano, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura. It was also decided that the task of creating the new state would be vested in the secessionists and rebel elements.

China is providing support to hostile forces which cut their ties with the motherland long ago. These elements are not only being indoctrinated in Maoist theory but are also being trained in subversive and terrorist activities in camps and institutions situated on Chinese territory near the Sino-Indian border. The arms, ammunition and other things are also being supplied to these elements there.

According to reports, the United States and China have already started to implement the Brahmaputra plan. After receiving training from the Chinese in the camps situated in Burma in areas inaccessible to others, some secessionist groups tried to enter India on 18 March from the no-man's land.

Observers believe the Brahmaputra plan is a serious threat to India's independence and also to the security of the whole of the subcontinent. It is the first clear proof of the similarity of interest and objectives of China and the United States in Asia.

PHOUMI VONGVICHIT ON REBUILDING OF LAOTIAN ECONOMY

LD211545 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 18 Mar 80 p 3 LD

[Yu. Lugovskiy report under the rubric "From the Journalist's Notebook": "Along Laos' Highways"]

[Excerpt] Vientiane-Moscow--Recently the Lao press has noted the increased tension in the north of the republic. There has been an increase in the frequency of sabotage raids by subversive forces directed from China. "General" Vang Pao, who used to be in the CIA's service, has also found new patrons in the shape of the Beijing rulers. According to foreign agency reports, this inveterate reactionary recently visited China, where he was encouraged to fight to create some sort of separatist "Mao state" on Laos' territory.

The official handbook "China: Basic Information" published recently in Beijing contains claims to a considerable part of Lao territory. Laos cannot disregard facts of this kind. The danger created by Beijing's subversive actions was noted by many of our Lao interlocutors. "Our people's enemies," SIANG PASASON, organ of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] Central Committee, has written, "are not abandoning their aggressive schemes and subversive activity against the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR]. They are hatching plans to absorb Laos. Therefore we cannot stand idle. The party and the state have set our armed forces two strategic tasks: to defend and develop the country."

To defend and develop the country. The Lao Army servicemen always remember this dual task. Along with combat and political training, they are making a great contribution to restoring the war-ravaged economy and implementing the plans for the republic's economic upsurge. As you travel Laos' highways you often see soldiers and workers together repairing the highways. They have bulldozers, graders and road rollers. More than 5,000 km of highways have been repaired or constructed recently.

The national democratic stage of the revolution has now been completed in Laos. The monarchy and the tyranny of the comprador generals, who sold out not only the country's natural wealth but also its sovereignty, have been replaced by a people's democratic republic. Its proclamation consolidated the country's national unity and changed the pace of its development in every sphere of life. Under the leadership of their proven vanguard--the LPRP--the people have begun building socialism.

We took power, Comrade Phoumi Vongvichit, member of the Politburo of the LPRP Central Committee and vice premier of the LPDR, said in conversation with us, in order to reorganize our entire economic structure on socialist lines and change people's consciousness and attitude toward labor in the spirit of socialist ideology. We take an optimistic view of our economy's development prospects. They are favorable. Our confidence is based on the awareness that Laos has many friends whose experience and support we can rely on. The relations between the Soviet Union and the LPDR are developing successfully in every sphere, promoting the consolidation of peace and security in Southeast Asia and Laos' headway along the path of building socialism.

There is a saying in Laos that a river should be long, mountains should be high, a forest should be blossoming and a moon should be full, and friendship should include all those qualities. The friendship between the peoples of Laos and the Soviet Union is exactly like that, Lao workers, peasants, students and servicemen told us.

TITO: INTENSIVE MEDICAL TREATMENT CONTINUING

LD221450 Moscow TASS in English 1412 GMT 22 Mar 80 LD

["Report by TANJUG Agency"--TASS headline]

[Text] Belgrade, March 22, TASS--According to a bulletin of the panel of attending doctors, reported by TANJUG agency, the state of health of President Josip Broz Tito of Yugoslavia is very grave. The continuing pneumonia is accompanied by high temperature. Malfunctioning of other organs is continuing. Bleeding in the stomach has been stopped. Intensive treatment is continuing.

REPORTAGE ON CPSU DELEGATION TO MSZMP CONGRESS

Departure From Moscow

LD231134 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1100 GMT 23 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Today, at the invitation of the MSZMP Central Committee, a CPSU delegation left Moscow to take part in the 12th MSZMP Congress.

The delegation is led by Kirilenko, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. It is composed of Zimyanin, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee; Sokolov, member of the CPSU Central Committee and second secretary of the Communist Party of the Ukraine Central Committee; and Pavlov, member of the CPSU Central Committee and USSR ambassador to the Hungarian People's Republic.

At the airport, the delegation was seen off by Gromyko, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR foreign minister; Dolgikh, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and other comrades.

Among those seeing them off was Pinter, the charge d'affaires from the Hungarian People's Republic in the Soviet Union.

Arrival in Budapest

LD231625 Moscow TASS in English 1557 GMT 23 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Budapest, March 23, TASS--A CPSU delegation led by Andrey Kirilenko, member of the Political Bureau, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, arrived in Budapest today at the invitation of the Central Committee of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party (HSWP) to take part in the work of the HSWP's 12th Congress.

At the airport the delegation were met by Karoly Nemeth, member of the Political Bureau of the HSWP CC, secretary of the HSWP CC, Andras Gyenes, secretary of the HSWP CC, Jozsef Marjai, member of the HSWP CC, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Hungarian People's Republic, and by other officials.

Among the welcoming party was Matyas Szuros, member of the HSWP CC, the ambassador of Hungary to the USSR.

GISCARD, SCHMIDT COMPARE NOTES ON GULF, U.S. TRIPS

LD211017 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 18 Mar 80 p 5 LD

[Correspondent Yu. Kharlanov dispatch: "Third Meeting"]

[Text] Paris, 17 March--The French press is paying great attention to the results of the meeting between French President V. Giscard d'Estaing and FRG Chancellor H. Schmidt held near Hamburg Sunday. It was the third Franco-West German summit since the beginning of the year.

As the newspaper LES ECHOS writes, despite the talks' brevity they were "very full." Chancellor Schmidt had just returned from the United States, where he had talks with the leaders of the American administration on a wide range of international problems. Giscard d'Estaing had made a 10-day tour of Arabian Peninsula countries. One of the tasks of the meeting between the two countries' leaders was to compare the results of those visits.

Whereas Schmidt brought little that was new from Washington--he merely had the well-known tough theses of the White House expounded to him--the French president, LE FIGARO points out, returned from the Near East with a whole number of interesting observations. Even the very conservatively oriented Arab countries which he visited do not at all evaluate the present period of increasing international tension in the way in which Western propaganda attempts to present it. They regard the concentration of the American fleet in the Indian Ocean as a threat to the Arab countries' independence. The events in Afghanistan have not pushed into the background the problem of Israel's expansionist policy in the Near East or altered the condemnation of Egyptian President A. as-Sadat's treacherous stance.

During his tour the French president clarified the well-known French stand on the Near East problem, declaring the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and the impossibility of resolving the Palestinian question without the PLO's participation.

LES ECHOS writes that the FRG also adheres to a viewpoint close to this. L'HUMANITE points out for its part that the time has now come to switch from wordy declarations to attempts at a genuine solution of the Near East problem.

A second group of questions examined during the Hamburg meeting concerned problems of detente. In this respect, LE MONDE emphasizes the two countries' positions also coincide in many respects, althoug the FRG is more amenable to pressure from Washington, to which is added pressure from the Christian Democratic opposition in West Germany itself.

Finally, the chancellor and the president discussed questions relating to the Common Market.

PERTINI ASKS COSSIGA TO FORM NEW GOVERNMENT

LD231240 Moscow TASS in English 1149 GMT 23 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Rome, March 23, TASS--A. Pertini, the president of the Italian Republic, asked F. Cossiga, Christian Democrat, to form a new government. The head of state took this decision after a series of consultations on the settlement of the government crisis which was brought on by the resignation of the former three-party cabinet in which F. Cossiga held the post of chairman of the Council of Ministers.

BERLINGUER INTERVIEW ON GOVERNMENT CRISIS CITED

LD211806 Moscow TASS in English 1733 GMT 21 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Rome, March 21, TASS--TASS correspondent Yevgeniy Babenko reports: President of the Italian Republic Alessandro Pertini continues consultations for the settlement of a cabinet crisis that began on March 19 after the cabinet of Francesco Cossiga resigned. The head of the state already received former presidents of the country, chairmen of both chambers of parliament. Today he had meetings with the leaders of the Christian Democratic Party, Communist, Socialist and other parties. Discussions are simultaneously conducted on this matter within the main political parties.

The debates are very heated, and this is not surprising. According to general view, the present cabinet crisis is the most serious one in the post-war time. The main question is if the country at last receives a stable political leadership which, uniting all the democratic forces, including communists, will tackle the numerous socio-economic problems existing now.

In a televised interview, General Secretary of the Italian Communist Party Enrico Berlinguer blamed for this situation the Christian Democrats who proved to be unable to govern the country. Touching upon the recent politico-financial scandals in which some leaders of the Christian Democratic Party were implicated, Enrico Berlinguer stressed that these scandals attest to "degneration" of the present system of power based on corruption. "It is, above all, necessary now to put an end to the discriminatory attitude to the democratic forces and to the monopoly holding of power by the Christian Democratic Party", Enrico Berlinguer said in this connection. He pointed out that it is necessary to form a national unity government. The general secretary of the Italian Communist Party also stressed that the communists continue attaching great significance to joint actions with the Socialist Party.

But other political forces of Italy have not yet assumed a clear-cut stand on the problem of the settlement of the cabinet crisis. The plenary meeting of the Central Committee of the Italian Socialist Party that has opened has not yet given a definite answer to the question with whom and on what conditions the Socialist Party intends to participate in a future cabinet. A meeting of the leadership of the Christian Democratic Party showed that the party is split. The grouping representing 42 percent of the party members refused to participate in the further talks. The Christian Democratic Party has not advanced any new initiatives and only suggested the candidature of Francesco Cossiga to the post of head of a future government.

REPORTAGE ON FRENCH COMMUNIST DELEGATION'S VISIT TO USSR

Opinions on International Situation

LD231308 Moscow TASS in English 1147 GMT 23 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 23, TASS--Under a programme for party exchanges and cooperation between the CPSU and the French Communist Party [FCP], a delegation of the French Communist Party stayed in the Soviet Union from March 17 to 23. It was led by Louis Baillot, member of the Central Committee of the French Communist Party, chairman of the National Defence Commission of the FCP Central Committee. They had a detailed exchange of opinions on current issues of the present international situation. Special attention was given to the danger of the policy of imperialist circles of deliberately aggravating the international situation, the attempts to disturb military parity and to impose a new spiral of the arms race. NATO's decision to deploy new American medium-range nuclear missiles in Western European countries represents a serious threat to the cause of peace and security in the continent.

The two sides said it was necessary for all communist and workers' parties and the peaceloving democratic forces to step up their efforts to repulse this policy and to continue and deepen the policy of detente, peaceful coexistence and cooperation. The FCP delegation had a meeting with Boris Ponomarev, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, secretary of the CPSU CC. The meeting took place in an atmosphere of friendship, mutual understanding and fraternal cooperation that are characteristic of the relations between the CPSU and the FCP.

Guryev Commentary

LD212244 Moscow in French to Europe 1730 GMT 21 Mar 80 LD

[Text] A French Communist Party [PCF] delegation led by Comrade Louis Baillot, a member of the PCF Central Committee, is now in Moscow at the invitation of the CPSU Central Committee. The visit is within the framework of agreements reached by the CPSU and PCF delegations led by Leonid Brezhnev and Georges Marchais at their meeting last January. What is involved is improving cooperation between the two parties on the principles of international solidarity, equality and independence. Here is a commentary by Vasiliy Guryev:

In present conditions, writes Vasiliy Guryev, the two parties attribute particular importance to joint actions in the struggle for detente and for ending the arms race, for peace and the security of the peoples. In the opinion of the CPSU and the PCF, peace is gravely threatened by the actions of the militarist circles of the United States and NATO which are continuing to increase tension in the international arena.

Ignoring the peoples' vital interests, President Carter and the leaders of the Atlantic alliance are destroying with their senseless actions what has been created in the course of years at the cost of the perseverance of numerous countries and peoples.

NATO's decision on the production and deployment in West Europe of new American nuclear missiles presents particular danger. It is increasingly evident that Washington proposes to modify the approximate military balance in Europe, thus reviving the arms race. In addition, the implementation of the NATO decision would allow the United States to turn Europe into an atomic battlefield and would give the FRG access to nuclear weapons.

Soviet and French communists consider this militaristic policy of the United States to be the principal reason for the worsening situation in Europe and the world. The circles in power in several West European countries, including France, are beginning to acknowledge that detente in Europe is being imperilled by the militaristic policy pursued by Carter and other leaders of the policy from positions of strength. This policy also presents a danger to France because it risks dragging France into NATO's military adventures against its own interests.

It is true that elements of realism and independence continue to dominate French foreign policy, however, the pressure of the advocates of Atlanticism is increasing. NATO leaders as well as Atlantic circles in France would like to change the country's foreign policy and subordinate it to the caprices of the American hawks.

The American administration is not standing aside and attempts to dictate offhandedly to France and other West European countries the way in which they should conduct their policy toward the Soviet Union.

The advocates of an independant policy in France are perfectly aware of the irreparable damage which would be inflicted on national interests and the international prestige of the country if they were to aline themselves with the United States and NATO.

The Communist Party and working class organizations stand in the front rank of fighters against the dangerous plans of the United States and NATO. The communists call on public opinion to recognize the gravity of the situation and to exploit all possibilities in order to fight in support of peace and detente, in support of strengthening the solidarity of all democratic and peace-loving forces.

Soviet and French communists are of the same mind. There exists a means to foil the maneuvers of NATO imperialist circles. Peace and detente can be maintained and consolidated thanks to the joint efforts of the peoples.

KASIKOV COMMENTS ON ELECTION RESULTS IN CATALONIA

LD221552 Moscow TASS in English 1542 GMT 22 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 22, TASS--TASS news analyst Anatoliy Krasikov writes: The press published today the final results of the elections to the Regional Autonomous Parliament of Catalonia. The elections became another important stage in strengthening a democratic order in the post-Franco Spain.

The very fact of the formation of the elected body in one of the largest and economically developed autonomous regions of the Spanish state is indicative. From now on Madrid's promise to return the Catalonians the rights they were denied after the victory by the Francoists in the Civil War in 1939 is being turned into reality.

It goes without saying that the advancement in resolving the national problem in Spain would be impossible without the struggle against fascism led for many years by the broad masses of the Spanish people in the grimmest years of Francoism and in the transitional period, a particularly great contribution to the common struggle was made by the inhabitants of such outlaying regions as Catalonia, the land of Basques, Galicia and Andalusia which were subjected, in addition to political and social yoke, to national yoke. That is why the triumph of the ideas of autonomy should be regarded asa direct outcome of the selfless efforts exerted by the oppressed nationalities for upholding their rights and interests.

Is it surprising that the greatest success at the Catalonian elections was achieved not by those parties which are in fact affiliates of the Spanish political formations but the local Catalonian organizations? The socialists, members of the Spanish Socialist Workers' Party, to whom many observers in Spain predicted victory, placed only second, while the Catalonian Federation of the Democratic Centre Union placed fourth. Ahead were the Catalonian Nationalists--representatives of the Democratic Convergence. The communists--members of the United Socialist Party of Catalonia--firmly hold their positions.

Spanish Prime Minister Adolfo Suarez and members of his Democratic Centre Union can be disappointed that they are far behind other political formations: the Democratic Convergence, socialists and communists. However, it would be a mistake to forget that the solution of the Catalonian problem is also their success to a large extent. The Suarez government, displaying realism and understanding of the need for democratic changes, actively participated in demolishing the edifice of the Franco dictatorship and in building modern Spain--the state where the Basques, Catalonians and representatives of other nationalities can count on the same respect for their traditions and peculiarities as the Castilians.

Speaking about political orientation of the Catalonian voters, it is conspicuous that their sympathy is obviously with the left. In fact, although the openly conservative party placed first, the majority of the electors voted for the left and left-centre parties. Summing up the votes casts for the socialists, communists, left republicans and Andalusian socialists, one will get the absolute majority.

Such results of the elections influenced also the composition of Catalonia's regional parliament. The Left and the Left Centre will possess the greater number of mandates than the Conservatives and the Right Centre.

Does it mean that the government of socialists, communists and left republicans will be formed in Barcelona tomorrow? Judging by all, it is too early to speak about it.

This way or another, the elections have been conducted, votes counted and mandates distributed. One has to wait a little to learn who will form the regional Catalonian Government. Five years ago the raising of such a question would seem fantastic. At present, it is reality. Stating this fact we again and again welcome the inevitablity of social progress.

PORTUGAL PARTICIPATING IN MORE NATO MILITARY ACTIVITIES

LD222158 Moscow in Portuguese to Portugal 1930 GMT 21 Mar 80 LD

[Text] It has been announced at the NATO general headquarters that major NATO exercises codenamed "Open Gate 80" will be held near the Portuguese coast in late April and early May. Moscow Radio observer Viktor Vladimirov writes in this connection:

The NATO military exercises and Portugal's participation therein might perhaps have failed to evoke much attention but for the place and timing of their execution. The fact is that the "Open Gate 80" exercises will coincide with the celebrations in Portugal of the sixth anniversary of the April revolution and of May Day. This can hardly be seen as a coincidence and in these circumstances, the NATO military exercises acquire political undertones. This view is shared by many progressive Portuguese newspapers.

The Political Commission of the Portugues Communist Party, for its part, has issued a note stating that the "Open Gate 80" maneuvers will impose an undesired presence on the Portuguese people. This presence is aimed at exercising inadmissible pressures on an independent country.

It is no secret that relations between NATO and Portugal have changed in recent years. Following 25 April 1974 certain U.S. and NATO circles attempted to prevent the successful completion of the April revolution and to deflect the development of the Portuguese situation in a direction favorable to them. To this end credits and investments were refused to Portugal and military shows of force took place near the coasts of the young democratic republic. Now that the country's political situation has suffered a sharp rightward turn, and that a so-called cleansing of its armed forces has taken place, the NATO generals are once more wooing Portugal. Contacts between the United States and NATO, on the one hand, and Portugal on the other, have been revived. Last February Portugal was visited by General Gundersen, chairman of the NATO Military Committee, and by a U.S. Air Force delegation. Top Nato officials observed exercises by the Portuguese Navy.

Obviously, membership in NATO entails certain commitments for Portugal. One is participation in military exercises and in the arms race constantly being speeded-up by NATO generals. Although Portugal's military expenditures may seem insignificant at first sight they amounted to $568 million in 1978--in the context of Portugal's possibilities even such an amount is huge. And who can give assurance that military expenditures will not increase? As is known, U.S. General Rogers, supreme allied commander in Europe, recently urged the NATO members to express their Atlantic solidarity by raising their annual military budgets by at least 5 percent.

In recent times the Portuguese Government has more than once stated its willingness to support--in the name of Atlantic solidarity--any steps to strengthen the defensive capability of the West, NATO included. It has also been announced that Portugal intends to rejoin the NATO Nuclear Planning Group that it had left in 1974.

It is obvious that, thanks to the efforts of the NATO generals on the one hand, and of the Portuguese authorities on the other, Portugal is being dragged into an increasingly active participation within the orbit of NATO's militaristic activities. The military exercises in the Atlantic in which Portugal has been participating with increasing frequency are part and parcel of this process.

One's attention is also drawn to the fact that when such exercises are over, the warships that take place in NATO's bellicose manifestations are making increasing familiarization calls on Portuguese ports.

NATO generals believe that by participating in the exercises the Portuguese Army and Navy will gain the experience they lack of joint operations with the troops of their allies in the bloc. And, taking advantage of the new-style foreign policy of the Sa Carneiro government, they are wasting no time in getting Portugal even more involved with their dangerous plans of aggression.

But the pro-Western line taken by the Democratic Alliance government and its intention to increase Portugal's contribution to NATO are giving rise to condemnation and protests from the country's progressive and peace-loving forces. One of the latest issues of the newspaper O DIARIO states: Our people want peace for themselves and for all the world.

USSR-AUSTRIAN TRADE TALKS END, CREDIT AGREEMENT SIGNED

LD212050 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1700 GMT 21 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Vienna--Talks have been held here on further broadening trade and economic ties between the USSR and Austria. A credit agreement has been signed which is intended to increase trade turnover between the two countries. In particular, it provides for the financing of machines, equipment, river vessels and various industrial materials which the Soviet Union purchases from Austria.

POPE VISIT NOT DISCUSSED DURING CARDINAL'S TRIP

LD211720 Moscow World Service in English 1600 GMT 21 Mar 80 LD

[Text] The chairman of the Vatican Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity, Cardinal Johannes Willebrands, has left Moscow for the Vatican. He took part in theological discussions with the dignitaries of the Russian Orthodox Church and was received by the patriarch of the Russian Orthodox Church, Pimen.

According to well-informed sources, the issue of possible visit to the Soviet Union by Pope John Paul II was not discussed.

EUROPEAN SECURITY COMMITTEE ISSUES COMMUNIQUE

LD222052 Moscow TASS in English 2038 GMT 22 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Brussels, March 22, TASS--Representatives of the European public expressed concern over a serious worsening of the international situation of late and declared their firm striving to exert efforts to ensure that this should not damage the detente and should not interfere with the implementation of the provisions of the Final Act of the Helsinki European conference, says a communique that was adopted at a meeting of the International Committee for European Security and Cooperation held here on March 20-21. It is in the interest of the European peoples to do all they can to prevent the resumption of the cold war. This danger increases because of the speed-up of the arms race and stirring up of war hysteria, the communique says.

The attempts to bring to naught the result of the detente that have been achieved by the efforts of all states, participants in the European conference the plans to deploy in Europe new nuclear missile arsenals, the violation of the existing agreements, the suspension of the talks under way now--all this undermines the normal development of the political, economic, cultural, scientific, humanitarian and sports ties and relations, the communique says.

The 35th anniversary of the victory over fascism reminds the European people and entire mankind of the real price of peace and requires ever more resolute actions for its preservation, for supplementing the political detente with effective measures in detente in the military field.

The participants in the meeting, the communique says, believe it is important that in these conditions the European peace forces should use every opportunity to demand immediately:

The implementation of the recommendations of the special session of the United Nations General Assembly on disarmament;

The ratification of the Salt II treaty and taking steps to lower considerably the level of nuclear missile armaments in Europe on a basis of parity and without damaging the security of any of the sides;

Real progress at the Vienna talks on mutual reduction of armed forces and armaments in central Europe;

The support of the proposals advanced by a number of states for the holding of a conference on military detente and disarmament in Europe;

The conclusion of the European treaty on not being the first to use against each other both nuclear and conventional armaments;

The constructive approach to the coming meeting in Madrid of representatives of states, participants in the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, so that this meeting should be a new stage in further advance along the road of complete implementation by all states of the provisions of the Final Act of the European conference, specifically in the sphere of supplementing the political detente with detente in the military sphere and concrete steps for disarmament;

A resolute rebuff to the attempts at unilateral rupture of curtailing of cooperation in the political, economic, scientific, cultural, humanitarian and sports spheres (for instance, the attempts to disrupt the 1980 Olympics), which contradict the vital interests of the European peoples;

All-round development of contacts and ties among the European peoples that were established thanks to the detente and the implementation of the Helsinki accords.

The International Committee for European Security and Cooperation urged all the sociopolitical forces declaring for European security and detente to continue and deepen the dialogue on burning international problems, jointly overcoming the obstacles arising on the road to disarmament and peace. We do not want either the cold war or clashes. We want detente and international cooperation, the communique stresses. The committee's meeting adopted a decision to hold early in June an international public meeting on the problems connected with the preparation and holding of the Madrid meeting of representatives of the countries, participants in the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. Taking part in the meeting of the international committee were representatives of the public of 21 countries and of over ten international organisations.

REPORTAGE ON DEVELOPMENTS SURROUNDING SHAH OF IRAN

Departure from the Azores

LD240940 Moscow World Service in English 0700 GMT 24 Mar 80 LD

[Text] The former Iranian shah has left the Portuguese-owned Azores Islands for Egypt, which is to give him asylum. Yesterday the deposed shah fled Panama following the arrival there of Iranian lawyers with documents substantiating the demand for his extradition. Panama was to consider this demand today. Iran insists on the shah's extradition for his trial. At its request an international commission of lawyers worked in Tehran; its findings confirmed gross violations of human rights in Iran under the shah's regime.

Arrival in Egypt

LD241232 Moscow in Arabic to the Arab World 1200 GMT 24 Mar 80 LD

[Text] The deposed shah of Iran arrived in Egypt today. He fled Panama 1 day before the necessary documents for his arrest and surrender to the Iranian authorities were handed to the Panamanian Government.

The deposed shah had held a series of secret meetings with U.S. officials, including Hamilton Jordan, representative of the White House. Last Saturday Iranian Foreign Minister Sadeq Qotbzadeh warned that Henry Kissinger, former U.S. secretary of state, and David Rockefeller, the well-known owner of American banks, were planning the escape of the deposed shah from Panama.

News agencies have reported that the shah flew to Egypt aboard an aircraft belonging to an American airline company which is close to the U.S. CIA.

Iranian Officials, Students Comment

LD240843 Moscow TASS in English 0744 GMT 24 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Tehran, March 24, TASS--Henry Kissinger's and David Rockefeller's efforts for moving the shah into a new place will have tragic consequences, said here Iranian Foreign Minister S. Qotbzadeh.

A spokesman for the group of students holding the American diplomats said that the shah's flight from Panama will not change their stand as regard the hostages. They will be released, he stressed, only after the shah is extradited and the wealth plundered by him is returned to the Iranian people.

Representative of the Islamic Revolutionary Council Habibi pointed out that the question of extradition of the former shah and release of American hostages is a single and indivisible question.

AMNESTY DECREE SIGNALS RELEASE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS

LD211412 Moscow TASS in English 1319 GMT 21 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Tehran, March 21, TASS--Twelve persons were released today from Kermansnah Prison under the amnesty of political prisoners announced by Ayatollah Khomeyni. Radio Tehran says that 60 more political prisoners have been released in other cities of the country.

The decree on amnesty applies to servicemen, former agents of police organs, including the shah's secret police Savak, as well as officials and clergymen who cooperated with the shah's regime but who had not stained their character by killing or torturing patriots and who did not order such actions and were not guilty of robbing the people and of corruption.

POSITION ON GAS TALKS WITH IRAN EXPLAINED

NC211521 Moscow in Persian to Iran 1100 GMT 21 Mar 80 NC

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Iranian newspapers have published a number of articles on the occasion of the Soviet-Iranian talks on the price of Iranian gas, in which the Soviet position on the price of gas has been wrongly described. Therefore, we deem it necessary to clarify this position once more.

First, it should be noted that the basis of the Soviet position is the same leading principle which defines all Soviet policy on Iran. This principle is full equality and mutual respect of one another's sovereignty, interests and rights. It was especially on the basis of this principle of full equality and profound respect for Iran's interests and rights that our country agreed to exchange an agreement with Iran in 1960 on the sale of Iranian gas.

The gas from Iran's oilfields was, until then, being burned wastefully in Iran's oil refineries. In return for this gas, the Soviet Union delivered machinery and installations required for projects being built in Iran. In return for gas, the Soviet Union built in Iran the Esfahan steel mill, the Arak machinery plant and about 150 other units which paved the way for Iran's economic independence.

The Soviet Union, which is itself the largest gas exporter, in light of the principle of equality and mutual respect for interests, agreed to help organize the export of Iranian gas to Western and central European countries via a transit route through the Soviet Union.

This same principle governs the Soviet position on the determination of the price of gas associated with Iran's oil resources.

The Soviet side believes that the price of gas should be equitable; that is, it should correspond to the current regional fuel price levels. We know that Iran and the Soviet Union are located in the same region. The price should not exceed the level at which the Soviet Union or Iran sells its own gas to third countries. It would be odd to expect the Soviet Union to purchase gas at a price higher than that at which it sells its own gas abroad. The equality of the parties means that the interests and rights of both sides should be respected.

We know that the Soviet Union welcomed Iran's wishes and, up to now, increased the price it paid for gas from Iran, while keeping the prices of machinery and industrial equipment exported to Iran unchanged. During the Tehran talks the Soviet Union even agreed to a considerable increase in the Iranian gas price. But the Iranian side asked for a disproportionate price unequaled in this trade region in which our countries are located. The Soviet Union could not accept this price.

Well, let it be. It is the prerogative of the Iranian Government to trade its natural wealth as it wishes. But it should not be said that the Soviet Union has harmed Iran's rights.

IRANIAN PRESS WARNS PAKISTAN ON GENDARME ROLE

LD210933 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 18 Mar 80 Morning Edition p 5 LD

[TASS correspondent report: "A Candidate for the Role of Gendarme"]

[Text] Tehran--Having despaired of dressing Sultan Qabus of Oman in the garments of the gendarme of the Persian Gulf and partly of the Indian Ocean, the Iranian newspaper the Tehran HERALD writes, the Washington "tailors" are trying to squeeze the Pakistani president into these garments.

Although the Iranian Government follows a policy of noninterference in other states' internal affairs, the newspaper stresses, Pakistan's attention must be drawn to the fact that in no circumstances will our country agree to the presence of a new Persian Gulf gendarme in close proximity to our borders.

SUPREME SOVIET DELEGATION BEGINS TALKS IN ADEN

LD221434 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0120 GMT 22 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Aden, 21 March, (TASS)--Talks have started here between a delegation of the USSR Supreme Soviet led by USSR Supreme Soviet Deputy and Chairman of the USSR People's Control Committee Aleksey Shkolnikov, which is on an official visit to the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen [PDRY], and a delegation of the Supreme People's Council of the PDRY led by Secretary of the Supreme People's Council Presidium 'Abd al-Hamid Muhammad al-Ghanim.

In the course of the talks, which passed in a warm, friendly atmosphere, an exchange of views took place concerning problems of the further strengthening of friendship and cooperation between the peoples of the Soviet Union and democratic Yemen, as well as the development of bilateral interparliamentary ties.

The sides noted with satisfaction that relations between the USSR and PDRY are founded on common aims in the struggle against imperialism and international reaction, for peace and social progress. Note was also taken of the great significance of the treaty on friendship and cooperation between the USSR and PDRY, which was signed in October 1979, for a fruitful development of bilateral relations in all spheres.

On the same day, the Supreme People's Council Presidium gave a dinner in honor of the delegation of the USSR Supreme Soviet. A speech was made by Al-Ghanim. He stressed that "the visit of the Soviet parliamentary delegation reflects the depth and durability of the ties which links the CPSU and the Socialist Party of Yemen, and the peoples of the USSR and the PDRY."

Democratic Yemen, he said is preparing to mark a great event in the history of all mankind--the 110th anniversary of the birth of V.I. Lenin.

In his reply speech A.A. Shkolnikov remarked that the visit of the delegation of the USSR Supreme Soviet to the PDRY is taking place at a time when all progressive forces in the world are preparing to celebrate the 110th anniversary of the birth of V.I. Lenin, founder of the Soviet state and leader of the world's proletariat.

The triumph of Lenin's ideas, he said, finds expression in the fact that the intrigues of imperialism, neocolonialism and reaction and their attempts to aggravate the international situation are faced by the broad front of revolutionary forces of our time. The head of the delegation of the USSR Supreme Soviet gave a high assessment to the worthy contribution which is being made by the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen to the cause of cohesion of all anti-imperialist forces.

ORTHODOX CHURCH STATEMENT ON WORLD TENSION CITED

LD211310 Moscow TASS in English 1253 GMT 21 Mar 80 LD

["Statement by Patriarch Pimen and the Synod of the Russian Orthodox Church"--TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, March 21, TASS--The synod of the Russian Orthodox Church, at its regular meeting today, discussed the question of the mission of the Russian Orthodox Church, of its inter-Orthodox, ecumenical, patriotic and peace-making service at the present stage and adopted a special statement.

A TASS correspondent was told at the Moscow Patriarchate that the statement emphasizes the need for further deepening and development of the contacts of the Russian Orthodox Church with other churches and religious associations, with international, national and regional centres.

The statement points out further that church people share the growing deep concern of the Soviet people and all people of good will, concern caused by the heightening of international tension, and by the West European countries' militarization process which is being fanned up by the military bloc of NATO.

Our special concern is being aroused by NATO's decision on deployment of medium-range nuclear weapons in several West European countries, the statement says. The decision sharply aggravated socialist countries' inter-state relations with the United States and other capitalist countries. All that has slowed down the process of detente in international relations, the process to which, as is known, there can be no alternative. Noteworthy is also the decision of the administration of the United States President Carter to freeze SALT II treaty ratification which mankind was looking forward to and which was viewed as the first stage on the way to the wished-for disarmament.

The heightening of international tension, the statement points out, has been given an unjustified development in connection with the events in Afghanistan which took the road of socio-economic transformations which are wholly for the benefit of broad masses of the country's population. That circumstance gave rise to a fierce resistance on the part of Afghan feudals that got a lavish all-round backing from the outside, particularly from the United States, Pakistan, and China.

The Soviet Union from the very first day of the establishment of independent Afghanistan in 1919 and up to this date has been having and keeping friendly relations with it. It is natural that the Government of Afghanistan which, in keeping with the Soviet-Afghan treaty of friendship, goodneighbourliness and cooperation, and in accordance with the U.N. Charter, many times applied to our country for assistance in repulsing outside aggression, received the assistance. We church people understand the reasons which led the Soviet Government to the step and approve of the rendering of the friendly help to that country. We do not regard as justified in any degree the use of the event in Afghanistan by the United States and a number of other countries for heightening tension in international relations.

We also resolutely condemn the use of the events in Afghanistan as a plea for stirring up an inadmissible campaign to frustrate the Olympic games of 1980 in Moscow.

The games are traditionally called upon to promote stronger brotherhood, mutual understanding and peaceful cooperation between all the people inhabiting our earth. That attempt should not be regarded in any other way than a desire to interfere with the process of international detente and cooperation, the process which is so effectively served by the Olympic games.

We consider it our sacred duty to do all we can to prevent mankind's going along the way leading to an all-destructive military disaster. Our duty is to proceed toward the longed-for realms of peace, the statement points out.

CLAIMS OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IN USSR CRITICIZED

LD221238 RABAT MAP in Arabic 0900 GMT 22 Mar 80 LD

[Excerpt] Moscow--Moscow Radio in its broadcasts beamed to Africa and the Middle East claims that Muslims in the Soviet Union are able to exercise their religious rites with complete freedom and that the Soviet authorities are lenient with them. However, in actual fact the matter is different, for Islam in the Soviet Union is shrinking and the number of mosques, which before the October 1917 Revolution reached 24,000, now does not exceed 240 mosques. There are two Islamic schools from which men of religion graduate and there are 40 million Muslims in Soviet Central Asia. Moreover, the number of students in Islamic studies does not exceed 100. Only 25 people can go to the holy places every year on pilgrimage. Also, religious teaching is prohibited in state schools while the campaign of atheism by the Soviet Communist Party is expanding.

Although some Islamic establishments are shown to tourists and there is talk about religious freedom, the Soviet Government looks at things differently. An article in the Tibilisi newspaper ZARYA VOSTOKA, organ of the Communist Party in Georgia, explains the Soviet viewpoint on religion and describes it as a vestige of the past. The paper stresses that ancient customs by the faithful have inflicted harm on the country and they should be replaced by nonreligious customs.

BRIEFS

UKRAINIAN ACADEMY MEETING--Proposals made by the Ukraine's scientists last year produced an economic result of $369 million. The scientists elaborated more than 2,000 projects in fundamental and applied research, a significant part of which have been completed. These are some results of work performed by the republic's scientific collectives in 1979, which are now being examined by the participants of a general meeting of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences that opened in Kiev on 20 March. Academician Paton, president of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences, delivered a report: The Main Results of the 1979 Activity of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences and Tasks Confronting the Establishments of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences in 1980. [Kiev Domestic Service in Russian 0900 GMT 20 Mar 80 AU]

BREZHNEV INTERVIEW PUBLISHED--Ankara, March 21, TASS--The local publishing house SER has published, with a mass circulation, a brochure with Comrade L.I. Brezhnev's answers to questions by a PRAVDA correspondent. [Excerpt] [Moscow TASS in English 1435 GMT 21 Mar 80 LD]

CLOSER PARTY ATTENTION TO CONSTRUCTION WORK QUALITY DEMANDED

ID211143 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 15 Mar 80 p 1 LD

[Editorial: "Construction Quality Must Be Improved"]

[Excerpts] During the 10th 5-Year Plan the arsenal of means of influencing the improvement of capital construction efficiency and quality has been considerably supplemented. The sector now makes more extensive use of the Saratov and Lvov systems of quality control, autonomous team financing, the principle of the "worker's baton" and other innovations. In many main administrations and trusts a unified quality service has been created, covering sections concerned with this problem at the planning, structure, manufacture, and developing of activity networks stages. All this has made it possible to improve the quality of the projects installed, to reduce the time taken to assimilate their capacities and to accelerate the return on funds invested.

Nevertheless, we cannot be satisfied with what has been achieved. As the CPSU Central Committee November (1979) Plenum noted, a dissipation of resources is to be observed in capital construction, uncompleted production is on the increase, and enterprises are frequently commissioned with large amounts of work uncompleted. Similar phenomena are to be observed in the development of capacities in ferrous and nonferrous metallurgy, the chemical, timber and woodworking, and pulp and paper industries and a number of other national economic sectors. This attests that some ministries and departments and local party and soviet organs still pay little attention to questions of construction planning and management.

The struggle for quality is a complicated and difficult process requiring a high standard of work organization at all levels. The production rhythm has great impact on the good quality of the projects installed. However, construction workers have still not achieved a strict rhythm in their work. This is explained, on the one hand, by the low production and manufacturing discipline and poor coordination of the operations of related subdivisions and, on the other, by considerable blunders in planning. The commissioning of most projects falls at the end of the year, hence the crash work programs and, as a result, the poor quality of installations. Every year the labor of 11,000 workers is expended on eliminating spoilage alone. The Orel system of constant planning has given a good account of itself as a good means for rhythmical work throughout the year, but the valuable experience is being disseminated only slowly.

The technical standard of new enterprises, shops and any other installations depends not only on construction workers but also on planners and on the manufacturers of materials and equipment. Their output does not always meet the requirements of scientific and technical progress. Frequently obsolete plans, heavy, uneconomical structures and incomplete equipment, often with defects, arrive at construction sites. The collectives of the planning institutions and construction materials and machine-building plants must exert more active influence on technical progress in one of the economy's leading sectors.

Great opportunities in the struggle to improve construction quality are opened up by the CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers resolution on improving the mechanism of economic management. [paragraph continues]

The new system of indicators, chief among which are the commissioning of projects, the volume of marketable construction output and the level of labor productivity and profit, will make it possible to raise construction efficiency, reduce amounts of uncompleted construction, and improve quality. All collectives must right now prepare strenuously for work under the new conditions.

The party committees are called on to secure from every economic leader the exercise of strict manufacturing control at all stages of the installation of projects, and not to focus on but to prevent blunders. The USSR Gosstroy and the construction ministries are called on to influence quality more actively. Their duty is to establish closer contacts with the local party organs and to support their undertakings more vigorously.

The collectives' persistence in attaining set goals and their increased responsibility to society are reflected in the quality indicator. The construction workers are fully determined to make a fitting contribution to the fulfillment of the 25th CPSU Congress decisions and to insure the commissioning of all projects to a good quality standard, in order thereby to prepare a reliable foundation for work in the next 5-year plan.

EXPANSION OF ELECTRONIC OIL-DRILLING CALLED FOR

LD211505 [Editorial Report LD] Moscow SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA in Russian 8 March 1980 carries on page 2 a 1,500-word article by the newspaper's correspondent I. Payvin under the rubric "How Are We To Accelerate Introduction?" and entitled "The Silent Battle: Why Is so Little Being Done To Introduce Electric Oil-Drilling in Oilfields?" The article explains the advantages of electric oil-drilling over the more conventional turbine drilling in certain oil-extraction operations and criticizes the USSR Ministry of Petroleum Industry leadership for "doing its utmost to block the widespread introduction of the electric oil drill." It deplores the "silent battle" of accusations and counter-accusations between the Ministry of the Petroleum Industry and the Ministry of the Electrical Equipment Industry, which the writer describes as being "unconcerned about the quality of drilling equipment," for retarding the production of electric oil-drilling equipment.

BRIEFS

MAGADAN OBKOM PLENUM--A plenum of the Magadan Obkom today heard an accountability report of the Tenkinskiy Raykom on its work in raising efficiency and quality in the mining industry in the light of decisions of the 25th CPSU Congress and the November 1979 Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee, which was delivered by raykom First Secretary Gagarinov. Obkom Second Secretary Bogdanov and others participated in the debate. Obkom First Secretary Malkov addressed the plenum. Malkov devoted special attention to questions of work with cadres in the Severovostokzoloto Association, the need to raise the level of labor and performance discipline in all sections, skillful organization of labor and exercising daily party control over the state of affairs at mining enterprises. The plenum adopted an expanded resolution on the matter discussed. [Magadan Domestic Service in Russian 0755 GMT 21 Mar 80 OW]

RADIO REPORTS AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENTS 17-23 MARCH

LD220200 [Editorial Report LD] The following is a compilation of reports on agricultural developments in the USSR carried by Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 17-21 March. Times of broadcasts are given in parentheses at the end of each item:

17 March

The acreage planted in corn in the Surkhandarinskaya Oblast will increase this year by almost 1.5 times. Machine operators in Tambovskaya Oblast have commenced preparations for the sowing of rye and winter wheat. Winter crops will be sown on 580,000 hectares this year. (0900 GMT)

18 March

Spring is slow in arriving this year. Field work is under way in 11 union republics, but later than usual. In the Kazakhstan virgin lands the retention of winter moisture continues. More of this work than planned has been carried out in Kokchetavskaya and Kustanayskaya oblasts. In Rostovskaya Oblast 2.6 times more retention than planned has been carried out. But this year snow is not abundant everywhere, so on the whole in the country this work has been carried out on a smaller area than last winter. In Pavlodarskaya Oblast a more effective method of accumulating winter moisture is being used. In the summer on fallow land two rows of mustard plants were sown every 100 meters. Now these plants have formed a flat snow cover up to 50 cm thick. This costs 75 kopecks per hectare. Each hectare now carries 2,000 tons of water, which is several times more than with normal snow retention. The mustard also protects the soil from wind erosion. This planting was carried out on almost 500,000 hectares in the oblast, a quarter of the total sowing area. The overwintering of animals has been difficult this year. There has been only just enough fodder, but the country's animal husbandry workers have been able to preserve the herds. The number of cattle now is higher than last year. (0200 GMT)

19 March

In Tadzhikistan, spring crops have so far been sown on over 33,000 hectares. Vegetables occupy over 5,000 hectares. This year Tadzhik farmers have pledged to produce 300,000 tons of grain. In Tuvinskaya ASSR preparations for spring field work are nearing completion. (0100 GMT)

Chimkent Oblast: Spring crop sowing started today in the Bugunskiy and Chardarinskiy Rayons. (0500 GMT)

Belorussian agricultural workers are completing preparations for spring sowing. Over 55 million tons of organic fertilizers have been applied to the fields for spring crops. This is 2 million tons more than last year. Cultivating equipment has been completely overhauled. (1430 GMT)

20 March

Crop sowing is in progress in Uzbekistan. In Omskaya Oblast all seeds have been prepared for sowing. (0100 GMT)

The farmers of Krasnodarskiy Kray are carrying out selective sowing of spring grain and pulse crops. Barley, oats, peas, fodder mixtures and grasses have been sown in the first few thousand hectares. Spring has come late this year in the Kuban and weather is unsettled. Snow is still lying on the ground in the northeastern and west regions, and there are morning frosts. Only in the south is the weather permitting machine operators to work in the fields. In these conditions crop farmers have had to make corrections to the sowing plan and to employ new tactics for using machines. Every available hour is being put to account. (0830 GMT)

Today the farmers of Stavropolskiy Kray began inspecting their winter crops without waiting for the spring weather to settle. The major part of the shoots have survived the frequent changes in temperature well. However, there are sections with damaged cereals on a number of kolkhozes and sovkhozes. A set of measures for resowing and top dressing the crops which have done poorly are being immediately laid down during the inspection. Let us recall that last autumn winter grain crops, primarily wheat and rye, were sown on 42 million hectares, 5 million hectares more than in the previous season. (1300 GMT)

In Uzbekistan, wheat has been planted in the virgin land of Kashkadarinskaya Oblast for the first time. (1400 GMT)

The sowing of spring wheat and barley has started in Uzbekistan. Spring grains will be sown under 90,000 hectares of irrigated and dry land in the republic. The management of winter grains is going on at the same time. (1430 GMT)

21 March

Warm weather has set in in Kirgizia, and the growers in the southern Batken Valley have started selective sowing of wheat, barley and alfalfa. Field work has also been started by growers in the Chu Valley. To date, the growers of the Chechen-Ingushskaya ASSR have sown thousands of hectares with oats and peas. The planting of fruit trees has been started in Chimkentskaya Oblast. It is intended witin the next few years to double the production of fruit and berries of Kazakhstan's sovkhozes. (1100 GMT)

22 March

In Kashkadarinskaya Oblast wheat and barley are being sown. Almost 290,000 hectares will be sown, some 30,000 more than last year. In Kirgizia 1/2 million hectares of spring wheat, barley and alfalfa have already been sown in the republic. (0100 GMT)

T.A. Pobetova, senior scientific officer of the USSR Hydrometeorological Center, reports that in the central area of European Russia, the central Volga, Belorussia and the Baltic area there is a considerable snow covering, in places more than normal. In northern Moldavia, most of the Ukraine and the North Caucasus fields are still covered with snow, but the depth varies from 2-6 cm to 25-33 cm. In the Baltic area, Belorussia and the central Non-Chernozem Zone, the snow cover reaches a depth of 0.5 meters in places. Here winter grains and perennial grasses are wintering well. (1130 GMT)

23 March

In Turkmenia three of the four cotton oblasts have completed plowing land allocated to the crop. In Maryyskaya Oblast new high-yield varieties will occupy more than 100,000 hectares. Turkmenia has pledged 1.21 million tons of raw cotton. (1200 GMT)

BRIEFS

RESETTLERS FROM KRASNODAR KRAY--A group of resettlers from Krasnodar Kray have arrived in Khankayskiy Rayon. Among them are machine operators, farm workers and livestock breeders. [Vladivostock Domestic Service in Russian 0930 GMT 21 Mar 80 OW]

SOYUZ-5 SEPARATES FROM SOYUZ-6 STATION

LD240958 Moscow TASS in English 0954 GMT 24 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 24, TASS--A TASS correspondent reports from the Flight Control Centre:

The freight space ship Soyuz-5 separated from the orbital Soyuz-6 station at 00.04 minutes, Moscow time, today after the completion of the joint flight programme. The process of separation of the space vehicles was done on commands from the Flight Control Centre and was controlled by specialists of the ground services.

The final trials of the Soyuz-5 ship's new systems, specifically its power unit, orientation and motion control systems, the computing complex are to be carried out in the course of its further autonomous flight.

The scientific station Salyut-6 is continuing its flight in the automatic regime. The parametres of the station's orbit are the following: the maximum distance from the surface of the earth--363 kilometres, the minimum--344 kilometres, the period of revolution--91.4 minutes, the inclination--51.6 degrees.

The systems of the Salyut-6 station and Soyuz-5 ship are functioning normally.

UKRAINIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES SETS UP OCEANOLOGY DEPARTMENT

AU211455 Kiev Domestic Service in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 21 Mar 80 AU

[Text] The results of the activity of the republic's Academy of Sciences in the 4th year of the 5-year period and tasks for 1980 were examined at a session of the general meeting of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences, held in Kiev today.

The meeting Presidium included Titarenko, Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee Politburo member and secretary; Kapto, Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee Politburo candidate member and secretary; Masol, Ukrainian Council of Ministers deputy chairman and Ukrainian Gosplan chairman; Nikolayev, Ukrainian Council of Ministers deputy chairman; Academician Paton, president of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences; Yelchenko, Kievskiy Gorkom first secretary; Azhipa, responsible worker of the Science and Educational Institutions Department in the CPSU Central Committee; Rudich, Science and Educational Institutions Department chief in the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee; Gurenko, Donstskiy Obkom secretary; Zgurskiy, Kievskiy Gorispolkom chairman; Presidium members of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences; leaders of a number of the republic's ministries and departments.

A report was delivered by Academician Paton, president of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences. The session participants assured that the republic's scientists would redouble their efforts in the struggle for successful filfillment of the plans for the final year of the 10th 5-Year Plan, would contribute a worthy part to implementation of the great program for communist construction.

The session adopted a decision to create within the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences a department for oceanology and geography. The academy's statutes have been amended. The session of the general meeting of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences was addressed by Titarenko, Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee Politburo member and secretary.